

tis written, My house shall be called of all ations, the house of prayer. Mark. 11. 17. they return, confession name, and pray, and nake supplication before thee in this House: en hear thou in heaven, and forgive-2. Chron 6.24.



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DEVOUT CHRISTIAN

Instructed how to

PRAY and give THANKS to GOD:

OR,

A Book of Devotions

FOR

FAMILIES

AND FOR

Particular Persons

IN.

Most of the concerns of Humane Life

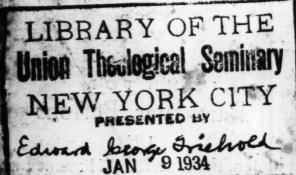
By ST. PATRICK, D.D. Chaplain in Ordinary to His MAJESTY.

The fifth Edition.

1 Thest. 5.17. Pray without ceasing.
18. In every thing give thanks.

LONDON,

Printed for Rich. Royston, Bookseller to Hi most Sacred Majesty, MDCLXXXI.



THE

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

Need not tell the well disposed Reader, there being fo much faid and writ continually in this argument, bom natural and necessary it is for all. rational Creatures, to look back upon all occasions to the Author of ing; that they may may ty acknowledgment they have receive recommend them cerns, to his con Providence. few how much GOD in his ferred before t Families at ho

Son as far as latter necessar

places Christian people cannot meet together, at the Church every day, Morning and Evening, to give to GOD the

glory that is due unto his Name.

My business is to desire him to remember, how natural it is likewise to all mankind to take such good advice beforehand, when they have any petitions or thanks to prefer unto earthly gods, that they may be delivered in a decent and grave form of words, as well as after a reverend manner: and to consider therefore, with what sober and prudent those expressions ought to be they present the humteful affections of gost High GOD, of Heaven and

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But fuch have
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God,

God, so rash their affirmations concerning him or concerning themselves, and so many untrue or doubtful things have they uttered; that it is sufficient, in my poor judgment, to blast the credit of that way of address to him, as it hath done, alas! with too many, the credit of Christian Piety, which hath suffered extream-

ly by such extravagance.

I know there are great numbers that will be ready to oppose me in this particular, with whom I list not to dispute in this short Preface. Let me only befeech them to use so much moderation, as not to discourage honest-hearted People from performing their duty to GOD, by difgracing any longer, as they have been wont to do, all Book-Prayers. Which if they have not the advantage (as I think they have) of suddain conceptions and expressions, yet are so necessary in the Church, that without them many Perfons cannot pray at all. And I hope they will confess, upon due deliberation, that though some few may have attained an habit of uttering their desires freely, A.A. and

and becomingly upon any occasion, yet as the use of it before others is too apt to minister to pride, vain-glory, and self-conceit; so most People are so defective both in their conceptions and utterance, as not to be able to discharge this holy duty as they ought, without such assist-

ance as is here offered them.

How well I have performed what I have undertaken, I must leave to the judgment of others. I am sure I have proceeded with deliberation; and studied faithfully to avoid all affected expressions, fantastical allusions, insignificant allegories, pretended wit, and elegant conversions of sentences, and rash application of the holy Scripture to my present purpose: which have been the vices, perhaps, of some forms, though not so frequently, as well as of men's hasty inventions.

I have laboured also to gratistie the Reader with some variety; not because I think it is always best to use it, but because some weak and squeamish appetites will not be satisfied without it. And

besides.

besides Prayers for Families, I have composed a great many other for particular persons; wherein if I have failed in the clearness and perspicuity of my expressions, it was much against my will: and being admonished of it by my friends, I will reform it, or any thing else that is amis.

But the length, or the brevity of the Prayers sure will not be accused, because there are of both sorts; that they who like not the one, may make use of the o-

ther.

Some, I doubt not, will complain that they find not a Prayer for some particular, want of theirs, not here named; but that's a defect which could not be remedied. For I knew not where to stop, if I had extended my thoughts beyond those necessities which are most common; and the rest, I hope, may be reasonably well supplied out of that which I have done to serve the other.

It is possible also that some may judge this whole work to be but a needless labour: since they have the Book of

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Common Prayers at hand, which they can use at home as well as in the Church. With these persons I shall not contend; but only deliver my opinion freely about this matter. Which is, that the reverence due to that book will be best preserved, by employing it only in the publick Divine Service; or in the private, where there is a Priest to officiate. However, the design of it is not to furnish the People with Prayers, for all those particular occasions, wherein devout souls would make their requests to GOD. And the constant opinion of pious Divines, in this and in other Churcis, we fee, by their writings, hath been; that other Books of Prayers, which they have composed, are necessary for the flock of Christ, besides their publick Liturgy.

That which remains is only to intreat those who will make use of this Book which is here tendered to them; First, to stir up their hearts to offer their Praises, Thanksgiving and Prayers unto GOD our heavenly Father, with servent devotion of spirit. And then, not to i-

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magine the reading them out of a Book is any hindrance to Devotion; but rather a considerable help, and much better than trusting the memory even with a form. For a man's mind hath nothing to do, when he hath the words before his eyes; but wholly to intend it self, to the raising of its affections unto the greatest height and ardency of desire,

and love, and joy, that it is able.

But take heed, I befeech you, in the last place; lest the performance of these holy duties, with some affection, deceive you into the neglect of all the rest. Our Prayers will be fruitless, if they be not attended with our serious study and earnest labour, to attain that which we befeech God to bestow upon us. And therefore with a sincere hatred of all sin, and a spirit armed with hearty resolution against it, invoke the Divine Grace for your assistance.

If you be true Christian Souldiers, that manfully fight under the banner of our Lord, call to him for aid, with your weapons in your hand. With a mind

bent

bent to consider, desire God to enlighten you. And with an heart stored with the treasures of Divine Truth, beseech him to quicken and enliven you. And with close and urgent applications of them to your heart, entreat him to enable you to form and shape your whole man, shirit, soul and body, according to them. For God is not hard to be entreated, since he entreats us to come to him, year gives a great deal of his grace without asking: but it is the faintness or inconstancy of our endeavours to comply with his grace, and with our own petitions, that makes them no more prevalent.

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They that had no other Director, but the light of their own minds, saw this well enough, and were so sensible of this truth, that they were wont publickly to declaim (as we find in Aristides his O-ration to the Rhodians concerning Conord) against the absurd folly of those, who were perpetually importuning the Gods with their Prayers, but would do nothing for themselves; no, not those things

things which they knew the Gods had

put in their power.

And in the same manner Demosthenes in one of his Philippicks, chides the Greeks; comparing them to men, who seeing great hail-stones fall upon their heads, prayed that they might be preserved in safety; but would not run away tosecure themselves from harm.

And therefore Clemens Alexandrinus justly commends the wisdom of those, who made the Laws Lib. 7. Strom. of the famous Olympick Combats: By which he that entred the lists, having for a long time before exercised his body to feats of activity, was ordered, before he began to contend for the Prize, to stand right over against the Statue of Jupiter, and to say this Prayer. O GOD; if I am in all regards duly fitted and prepared, as I ought, for this Combat; vouchfafe in thy righteous judgment, to grant the victory to me. Even so, saith he, may a man chearfully approach to God, who, faithfully and

with a good conscience, doth all that

he can both to learn his will, and to exercise himself in good works, that are pleasing to him: forhe shall have all that can be wisht for the perfecting of his Salvation. Just as a Physician (as he goes on) restores health to those, who co-operate with his medicines: so will GOD give his eternal salvation, to them who work together with him, both unto knowledge, and unto well doing.

As for those who do not live well, it is plain, saith he in another place, that they do not so much as know what things are most profitable for themselves. And if so, then it is manifest likewise that they cannot tell how to pray to GOD to receive good things from him, being ignorant of what is good. Or if they should receive them, they would have no sense at all of the gift, nor use it according to its worth and dignity; and that for the very same reason, because they understand not its value.

Inspire therefore, OGod of all Grace,
I most humbly beseech thee, both my
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heart and the hearts of all others who shall read this book with such a godly will, to endeavour zealoufly in all things to do what is well pleafing in thy fight; that we may comfortably expect the constant and powerful prefence of thy holy Spirit with us, to help us in the performance of our duty, till we have perfected holiness in thy fear. And the fincerity of that love to thee, which we profess in our Prayers, being testified by an unwearied observance of all thy commands; we may be able also to wait with an humble confidence for thy falvation: who hast graciously promised to reward our weak and short obedience in this life, with inconceiveable and endless joys in a better World. Amen.

Imprimatur,

Sam. Parker Rmo. in Christo Patri ac Adib. Lan-Domino, Dno Gilberto Ar-chi. 030.21. chiep. Cantuar. à sac. Dom. Ex Ædib, Lambeth. 0.20.21. 1672.

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PRAYERS FAMILIES.

On the

LORD'S DAY

In the

MORNING.

Lmighty and Eternal
God, the Lord of Heaven and Earth: we thy
Creatures are here prostrate before Thee, to

express our humble and grateful sense of our dependence on thee; to honour thee with our Praises and Thanksgivings; and with an hearty oblation of our selves, our Souls and Bodies, to thy service. We are unworthy, we confess, to be admitted to speak unto thy Majesty, nor B can

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can our thoughts or words add any thing to thy greatness, happiness and glory: but fince thou art pleafed in thy infinite goodness to do us the homour, not only to admit, but to invite our addresses unto thee, that our spirits may be bettered by lifting up themselves to thee from whom we come, by meditating thy praises, by exciting our love, and paying our acknowledgments to thee; we most humbly and thankfully receive this thy great grace and favour towards us. Remembring withal, that it is but just and reasonable we Thould pay thee our vows which we made the last night, being so gracioully raised up in soundness of body and mind, to see the light of this day; which our Saviour hath made, that we may be glad and rejoyce therein.

We laud and magnifie therefore thy most holy Name, thy infinite Power, Wisdom and Bounty; which all the world proclaims with the highest ly

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Sunday. Prayers for Families. highest praises. We bless thee in behalf of all thy creatures, as well as of our felves (to whom thou haft given dominion over the Pfal. 145. 15, works of thy hands) for the eyes of all look unto thee, and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thy hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing. But above all we acknowledge thy inestimable benefits bestowed upon mankind in Christ Jesus, the Son of thy Love, whom thou wast pleased, in thy infinite mercy, to fend among

us in our own likeness; to assure us of thy good will toward us, and to instruct us in our duty towards thee, and to give us hope of no less than immortal life, by patient continu-

ance in well doing.

We remember with all thankfulness his miraculous Birth, at which the Angels rejoyced; his most holy Life; his bitter Agony, and bloudy Death; his glorious Refurrection up on this day from the grave; his

Ascension into the heavens, to sit on the right hand of the Majesty on high; his Triumph over all the powers of darkness; and his Sovereign Dominion over all Angels, Authorities and Powers, Pet. 3. ult. whom thou hast made fubject to him. O God, how great was thy love to the finful fons of men! which moved thee to pass by fuch innumerable offences, whereby they had provoked thy feverest displeasure. How great was that love! which hath honoured our mortal nature with fo high a glory; and committed the care of our immortal fouls to one fo mighty to fave, and so full of kindness, and most tender charity toward us. O the greatness of thy love! which hath chosen us to be thy fons and heirs, together with Christ Jesus; and set such an high Priest over thy house and family, to make intercession for us, to dispense all divine blessings to us, and fend forth Angels themselves

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Sunday. Prayers for Families.

to be ministring spirits for them who shall be heirs of salvation.

Who can understand Heb. 1. ult.

Who can understand Heb. 1. ult.

the exceeding riches of thy grace in sending the Holy Ghost to be a witness of our Saviours Resurrection and Exaltation; and to make us abound in hope, that we shall be one day raised Rom. 15.13. from the dead, and carried to heaven, and keep a perpetual rest, after our short labours here, with our

nal glory?

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O that we could begin it this day, in devout Meditations of these things, in unspeakable joy and satisfaction of heart in the assured hope and expectation of them, and in blessing and praising thee, who hast given us such good hope, and everlasting consolation. Lift up our minds, we pray thee, this morning, above all these little things here below, which are apt to distract our thoughts, and turn away our eyes from that hea-

bleffed Lord and Master, in his eter-

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venly bliss. And keep them above in the serious contemplation of it; till we be in love with it, and our hearts be fully bent and resolved to seek it every day in those ways wherein Jesus hath gone before us, though it should be with the loss of all that we here possess. It is but meet and fit that we should wholly quit our own will, and devote our selves to sollow thine; especially since thou hast shown such unusual kindness towards us, as, if we had been innocent, we durst not have presumed to expect from thee.

We are asham'd, O Lord, to think that ever we have disobeyed thee, to whom we stand so deeply indebted, both as we are thy creatures, and as we are redeemed by the precious bloud of thy Son Jesus. It grieves us, that we have transgressed any of thy righteous and good Laws, by which it is our happiness as well as our duty to be govern'd. We abhor the thoughts of ever breaking them

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them any more: befeeching not only thy gracious pardon, but thy acceptance of our entire resolution to
agree with thy Will in all things, for
the time to come. We here agains
most solemnly dedicate all the
powers of our souls and bodies to thy
service: desiring unseignedly that
all the thoughts and designs of our
minds, all the affections and passions
of our hearts, and all the actions of
our life and conversation may be
pure, holy and unreprovable in thy
sight.

For which end we most humbly implore the assistance of thy good spirit, which our Lord hath encouraged us to hope thou wilt give to those, that ask and seek it with their whole heart. O let thy mercy be upon us according to thy word, according as our hope is in thee, and our hearts sincerely and stedsastly set to keep thy Commandments. Search us, O God, Psal. 139. 23,

and know our hearts: try 24.

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us, and know our thoughts. And fee if there be any way of wickedness in us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Fill our minds with awful and reverend thoughts of Thee, as our Sovereign Lord and Judge. Settle in us an immutable love to Thee; and the highest esteem of thy favour and grace, as better than life it self. That so we may study above all things to approve our very hearts, and all our actions to thee; and feel the sense of thy acceptance of us, giving us greater pleasure, than all the world can afford us.

Make it our delight to praise thee, to call to mind thy loving kindness, to offer to thee the facrifice of thankf-giving, and to meditate on thy precious promises. Help us to take heed to our selves, lest our hearts be at any time overcharged with surfeiting and drunkenness, and the inordinate cares of this life: To have our conversation without covetousness, and to be

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content with such things as we have: To possess our bodies in I Theff. 4. 4. Sanctification and honour: To love our neighbours as Rom. 13.9. our selves; And as we Marth. 7. 12. would that others should do to us, to do even so to them: To live peaceably, Rom, 12. 18:5 as much as in us lieth, with all men: To put on I Pet: 3. 4. the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit: To take. Jain. 5. 12. those who have spoken in the name of our Lord, for an example of Suffering affliction, and of patience: 1 Pet. 4. 16. and when we suffer as

Christians, not to be ashamed, but to glorisie thee our God on this behalf.

And accept, good Lord, of all the praises and acknowledgments of all thy People met this day together, according to thy will: and assist us to render thee still more hearty and affectionate praises, in that holy Assembly, to which we are going to joyn our selves. O that

Prayers for Families. Sunday. all people on the face of the earth were united together, likewise, in one body to shew forth thy praise. O that thy way were known upon earth, thy faving health among all Nations. And that all Christian Kings especially, may be filled with thy holy Spirit; and think it their Crown and their Glory, to be the devout worshippers and faithful subjects of the Lord Jesus, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords. O that thy Priests may be cloath-Pfal. 132.9. edwith righteoufness, and thy Saints shout aloud for joy. That all who are in diffress and misery may rejoyce also, in hope that all afflictions shall turn to their good, and afterwards yield the peace-Heb. 12. 11. able fruit of righteousness.

Able fruit of righteousness.

O Lord, hear us; and make thy face to shine upon thy servants: that we may enter into thy gates with thanksgiving, and into thy courts with raise: that we may be thankful into thee, and bless thy Name.

For

Sunday: Prayers for Families?

For the Lord is good; his mercy is ever lasting: and his truth en-Pfal, 100. 4;

dureth to all generations:

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Amen, Amen, for Jesus Christ his fake; in whose words we conclude our imperfect Prayers.

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

Lord most high; the Holy One, who inhabitest Eternity, who only hast immortality, and art most blessed in thy own incomprehensible perfections. Thou art to be feared and loved, to be worshipped and praised, by us and all reasonable creatures; who have any know ledge, how great, how mighty, how wife, and merciful thou art. All thy works praise thee, O Lord, and we more especially ought to bless the whom thou hast made to understand

thy most adorable excellencies, which are far beyond the highest of all our thoughts. And we have yet a more particular obligation to thee, for thy marvellous love in Christ Jefus, whom thou hast sent in great humility to visit us, who are but dust and ashes; to make his abode among us; to testifie thy great love to us; to assure us of thy good will, notwithstanding our many offences; and to make us exceeding great and precious promises, to invite us to approach thee, and to encourage our obedience to thee. We thank thee that he hath fealed them with his bloud; and that thou haft confirmed them by his Refurrection, and Ascension, and the coming of the Holy Ghost; and hast also given us so many happy opportunities to acquaint our felves with the truth and purity of the Christian Religion: which comforts s in this state of mortality and misewith the bleffed hope of eternal life.

Bleffed be thy goodness for that

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Sunday. Prayers for Families.

great confolation; and that thou hast shown us the way to it by his doctrine and example; and affured us of the affiftance of thy holy Spirit to enable us to follow after him to that glory which he possesses Blessed be thy goodness, that we have felt it so often in our minds and hearts; inspiring us with holy thoughts, exciting in us devout affections and godly resolutions, filling us with Divine Joys, and with comfortable expectations of the glory that shall be revealed. We thank thee, that thou hast permitted us this day to attend upon thee, together with our Christian Brethren, in the publick Duties of thy Worship and Service. And that there we have received any good instructions, any holy exhortations, and Christian encouragements, to proceed and go forward in the course of well doing: and have begun in any meafure that eternal rest, which we wait for with all the faithful; when we

shall praise, and thank, and love thee our heavenly Father better than we can do now, whilst we are in these frail bodies, and absent from the Lord.

We can do no less than offer up again our fouls and bodies to thee, to be ordered and governed by thy bleffed Will, and not our own: that fo we may be every day more prepared for that happy state, and draw nearer and nearer in the disposition and temper of our spirits, to that immortal bleffedness. It is our satisfaaion, our security, the ease and joy of our hearts, to be under the conduct of thy unerring wisdom; to follow thy counsels, and to be determined in all things by thy holy Will: who art so good, and hast given us fuch large demonstrations of thy abundant kindness and good will to us, as will not let us diffrust thy tender care of us; what soever it is thou wouldest have us do or suffer in this world.

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O God, purific our minds and thoughts more perfectly, that we may never conceive amiss of thee; but have right apprehensions in all things: and purifie all our passions and affections likewise, that we may rentirely love thee; and rejoyce in being beloved of thee; and humbly confide in thee, and absolutely refign our felves to thee, and be filled with constant devotion towards thee, our Almighty Creator, and most merciful Redeemer. Possess our hearts with fuch a lively fense of our relation to thee in both respects, and of the honour thou hast done us in preferring us fo much above the rest of our fellow creatures; that we may ever behave our felves fuitably to the dignity of our Nature, and of our Religion.

O that we may never degenerate into a base and unworthy love of any thing here below: nor be oppressed with the burden of the cares of this life: nor sink under the weight of

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any affliction, nor be vainly puffed up with the greatest fulness of earthly goods, if thou art pleased to bestrow them on us. But assist us with

thy grace, to abhor that which is evil, and cleave to that which is good. Dispose us to a discreet and temperate use of all the pleasures of this world. Endue us with true modesty and humility of spirit, that we may not think of our selves more highly than we

Rom. 12. 3, ought to think; but think foberly, according to the

measure which thou hast dealt unto us.

Keep us from being wise in our own
conceits: and enable us so to order
our selves, that our moderation may
ke known to all men. Make

to another in brotherly love: To delight in doing good; to shew all meek

Tit. 3.2.
Rom. 13.7,8.

nesto all men: To render
to all their dues: Tribute
to whom Tribute is due.

custom to whom custom, fear to whom

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Sunday. Prayers for Families. fear, honour to whom honour: and to owe no man any thing, but to love one another. Make us so happy, that we may be able to love our enemies, to blesthose that curse us, to Matth. 5. 44do good to them that hate Rom. 12.15. us, to rejoyce with them that do rejoyce, and weep with them that weep. Compose our spirits to a quiet and steady dependence on thy good providence; that we may not take too much thought for our life, nor be careful for any Matth. 6. 25 thing: but by prayer and Phil. 4, 6. Supplication with thanks giving, still make known our requests to thee our God. And help us to pres alway, and not faint: In Duke 18, 1 every thing to give thanks, I Theff. you and offer up the sacrifice of praise continually: To Heb. 13. 15. pasthe time of our sojour-1.Pet. 1.17. ning here in fear: to be-Rom. 5. 2. lieve those things which we do not see, and to rejoyce Luke 21. 19. in hope of thy Glory: To

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Phil. 4. 11,12. Posses our souls in patience: And to learn in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content: Make us know both how to be abased, and how to abound: every where, and in all things instruct us, both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need: being enabled to do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us. That we feeling the joys of uprightness and integrity of heart; our Religion may be the greatest comfort and pleasure to us, and we our selves an Ornament to our Religion.

O that we could alway by an innocent, good and useful life, commend the Doctrine of God, our Saviour, to those who converse with us: And that the light of all Christians did so shine before men, that others beholding their good works, might be moved to glorisie thee, and heartily to believe on the Lord Jesus. Send forth thy Light and thy Truth into all the dark corners of the Earth:

That

That all Kings may fall down before him, and all Nations serve him. And

Pfal.72.11,12, 13,14.

endue them whom thou hast placed in such high Authority over others with that divine Spirit which was in him: that they may deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper. That they may spare the poor and needy, and save and redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and their blond may be presious

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Bless these Kingdoms wherein we live; and as thou hast long continued to us the knowledge of thy Truth: so give us grace to bring forth fruit becoming the Gospel; that thou mayest not cut us down as barren trees, which cumber the ground. Lord fave the King, and establish his Throne in righteousnels, that we may fee many happy days under his Government: and be comforted now after the time Pfal. 90. 15. that thou hast plagued us;

and for the years wherein we have suffered adversity. Prosper the pious endeavours of all those, that faithfully feed and instruct thy People; and encrease the number of them. Othat the Seed which hath been fown this Day, may take deep root in all our hearts, and bring forth fruit abundantly: that being not forgetful hearers, but doers of

Jam. 1,25,26. the work, we may be all blessed in our deed. Help us in all the week following, to fet a Pfal. 141. 3,4. watch before our mouth; and to keep the door of our tips. Preferve us that our heart incline not to any evil thing, to practise wicked works, with men that work iniquity: but we

may be always followers of that which is good;

Pet. 3. 13. and as we have received Theff 4. 1. how we ought to walk and

please thee our God, so we may abound more and more.

Protect us, we befeech thee, and all our friends every where, this night

night. Grant us quiet and undiflurbed rest and sleep: and awaken in the morning these good thoughts and desires again in our hearts; that the words of our Saviour John 15.7. may abide in us, and we in him; till we come to endless life together with him; by whom we are encouraged thus to address our felves unto thee, and to continue to pray, as he hath taught us in his holy Gospel, saying,

Our Father, &c.

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A shorter form of Prayer for the Lords day Morning.

Most holy and eternally Blessed. The heaven, and the Deut. 10. 14! heaven of heavens is thine, the earth also with all that therein is. Thou art every where, and canst not be excluded from any place: but art

art present to the greatest secrets of our fouls, and feelt the closest and most retired thoughts of our hearts. Thou knowest very well with what designs and affections we now bow our selves before thee, and canst not be deceived by any words that we are able to speak in thy praise, whilst our hearts are far from thy fear and love.

Behold, O Lord, our hearts are full with defires to be possessed with a mighty reverend sense of thee, and of all the benefits thou hast bestowed on us: and to be lifted up to Heaven in love to thee, and joy in thee, whilst we bless and praise thee, and speak good of thy Name. We here remember with all humility and thankfulness that thou art our Creator, and acknowledge thy care and providence over thy ancient people in bleffing and fanctifying a day, wherein thou thy felf restedst from thy works, that they might cease from all other employments; and admire of d

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admirethy wonderful works, extol thy power, bless thy goodness, and be aftonished at thy wisdom, in making, preferving, adorning and governing this excellent frame of the world. The heavens declare thy glory, O God, and the firmament sheweth thy handy-work. The Sun, the Moon, and all the hoft of Heaven proclaim the greatness and splendor of thy Majesty. The whole earth is full of thy rich goodness: so is the Pfal. 104. 24. great and wide sea, wherein are things moving innumerable, both small and great living creatures. There is nothing but what speaks of thee; and above all, the Children of men, whom thou hast wonderfully made, and curiously wrought, and impressed with thine own Image; that they might understand thee, and love thee, in all and above all things.

The variety, the order, the stedfastness of all thy works in this great world, abundantly utter thy adora-

Prayers for Families. Sunday. ble perfections. But thou, O Lord, by thy goodness in giving thy Son for us, and then raising him up from the dead, and fetting him at thy right hand, hast given us new matter of wonder and praise; and confecrated a better rest and holy day of rejoycing: wherein we should behold the glories of another world, and have before our eyes the happiness thou intendest for us there, together with all the excellent means which lead unto it. Thou givest us occasion not only to reflect upon all the good things thou hast provided for our bodies; (which we can never acknowledge enough; the very health and ease of one Day deserving the thankfulness of many) but we must also remember, that we are thy redeemed ones, and that thou hast done great things for our fouls in thy Son Jesus, who is entred into the heavens for us, and gone to prepare a resting place for all those that follow him. exceeding riches of thy grace infi-

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ments; fince all the praifes we are able to render thee, are less than is

due for thy temporal bleffings.

To this love we owe the knowledge of thee, the true and only God; our freedom from Idolatry, and a vain conversation; the true Principles of holy living; the benefit of repentance; the promise of a pardon; the affiftance of thy holy Spirit; the ministry of thy Angels; the hope of immortal life; and the pledges our Lord hath left us of his endless love. To this we owe thy forbearance in the days of our ignorance; thy unwearied patience towards us in a continued rebellion; and thy earnest intreaties of us, when we were passionately bent upon our own destruction. Thou hast sent us, in much love, many holy Instructors and Guides to bleffedness. We have had the benefit of fundry pious Sermons, good Examples, wholfome admonitions, and serious counsels, of the power of the Holy Ghost, and divers restraints of sear, and shame, and love: and thou still pursuest us with thy merciful kindness, and be seechest us to attend to thy gracious invitations, and receive thy blessings, and make thee our choice, and be eternally happy in thy Divine savour and likeness. What shall we render to the Lord for all his benefits towards us?

O help us to manifest our real and unfeigned desires to make some worthy returns to thee, by our careful improvement of the holy opportunity which thou this Day puttest into our hands. O that our minds may be more enlightned to understand the truth, as it is in Jesus; that our wills may be more ftedfaftly resolved to cleave unto it; that our affections may be excited to a stronger and more ardent love to thee, and toa greater delight in thee; and all the powers of our fouls disposed to serve thee at all other times, more cheerfully

Sunday. Prayers for Families.

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fully and readily, in all the Duties of Piety, Soberness, Righteousness and Mercy. So that every Day may become an holy rest to the Lord, by ceasing to do evil, and constantly doing well: and we may glorifie thee throughout our whole life; in all our actions shewing forth 1 Tet. 2. 9.

thy praises, who hast called

us out of darkness into thy marvellous light. And enlighten, Good Lord, the whole World with the beams of thy glorious Gospel. And dispose the hearts of all Christian people, among whom the Sun of Righteoufnefs hath shone so long, to walk as children of the Light: That so they may offer unto thee this day most acceptable Sacrifices, for themfelves and for all mankind: and be fitted and prepared by ferving thee in righteousness and true holiness here, to shine for ever, in his heavenly Kingdom, with Christ Jesus our Saour. By whom thou haft given us a good hope in Thee, that thou wilt hear 28 Prayers for Families. Sunday.

hear our Prayers, and do for us above all that we can ask or think; which we humbly beg in those holy words, which he hath taught us, saying,

Our Father, &c.

Another at Night.

Most blessed for evermore; the Father of Mercies, and the God of all Comfort. How precious are thy thoughts to us-ward? how great is the sum of them? Thou renewest thy favours continually, and art still pouring upon us innumerable benefits; of which, this is not the least, that thou givest us leave to come into thy presence, to call thee Father, and to make known our requests to thee, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. We accept, O Lord, with all thanksulness this

this thy great grace and loving kindnesstous: and are here again prostrate before thee this Evening, to acknowledge thy goodness in making us fuch excellent Creatures; capable to know thee, and acknowledge thee, and love thee, and by being made like thee, to be eternally

happy with thee.

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Blessed be thy name, that we are now alive; and that we have lived fo long in health, and strength, and peace, and plenty of all good things: whereas our eyes might have been confumed with grief, our bones fore vexed, and we might have mingled our drink with continual weeping. We are bound unto thee for the free use of our understandings; for the good inclinations we find in our will; for any devout affections which are stirring in our hearts; for all the advantages we have had by our education, good company, and holy examples: And more especially for the illuminations of the Holy Ghost by thy

thy bleffed Gospel; the breathings of it frequently into our spirits; the importunities thou hast used to draw us to thee; and the great and precious promises whereby thy love in Christ Jesus constrains us to resign our selves entirely to the obedience of thy Precepts.

We cught likewise to admire and praise thee, for thy goodness to all thy creatures, who live daily upon thy bounteous allowance. The eyes

of all wait on thee, and thou givest them their food in due season. Thou disfuses thy blessings in several streams to every one of them, according to their needs.

That thou givest them, they gather: thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good. We give thee the glory of thy plentisul provision thou hast made for them: and more particularly admire thy great liberality to the Children of men; under whose feet thou hast put in subjection, all Sheep and Oxen,

yea, and the Beasts of the Field, the Fowl of the Air, and the Fish of the Sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the Waters. O Lord, we praise thee for thy goodness to those who praise thee not themselves. Be thou adored and acknowledged in thy bounty, which bestows so many blessings unasked and unsought; and continues them notwithstanding abundance of provocations, and most high offences that they have given to thy merciful kindness.

And let thy goodness to thy Church be never forgotten by us, which thou hast in all Ages protected and defended: in a marvellous manner propagating the Gospel of our Saviour, confounding its opposers, and spreading it by the power of the Holy Ghost over the face of the Earth. We thank thee for thy singular favour to these Countries wherein we live. To whom these glad tidings of Salvation have reached; and who have long enjoyed a

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more glorious light than many other places; and been delivered from the darkness of Popish Superstition, and from fundry attempts that have been made to bereave us of this happiness; and are again setled after many confusions in a peaceable enjoyment of thy true Religion: which thou hast also continued to us, though we have not brought forth fruit worthy of the Gospel of

thy Grace.

O that all thy undeferved good-ness may have this effect upon us; to make us heartily love thee, and devoutly worship thee, and zealoufly obey thee, and stedfastly trust and hope in thee for ever. That by a careful improvement of the knowledge of thee our God, and our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom thou hast given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness; we may still enjoy this inestimable treasure, and all thy love to us may at last be finished in those eternal joys, which he hath promiıy.

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fed to the faithful. And as we have been taught, exhorted and encouraged this day out of thy holy word; and have likewise publickly acknowledged our obligations to thee, and made profession of love, and gratitude, and dutifulness to thy Divine Majesty: So help us all the week following openly to testifie the truth and honesty of our hearts, in all this, by a blameless conversation; in all humility, meekness, temperance, righteousness, charity and peace, with all them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Bless our Sovereign, the Defender of the Faith we profess, and all employed under him, in their several offices: that they may be instruments of continuing to us these holy opportunities; with all other good things that may make these Kingdoms happy. O that all our friends may be thine; and if we have any enemies Father, forgive them. Comfort and support the sick, the needy, and all

Prayers for Families. Sunday.

other distressed persons, with an immoveable belief of thy wife and good providence; to which give them grace patiently and obediently to reign themselves. And when all our senses this night shall be bound up with sleep, be thou, O Lord, our keeper: and after the refreshment of that repose, and this holy rest from our labours, raise us in the morning to return unto them with chearful minds, and ready wills; praising still and magnifying thy multiplied mercies to us in Christ Jesus, by whom we present our selves and petitions to thee: faying further, as he hath taught us.

Our Father, &c.

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Another for the Afternoon, or any other time of that day.

Most Holy, Glorious and Bleffed. Thy Name is excellent in all the earth; and thou art for ever praised by all the Host of Heaven, who are never weary of thy fervice. We thy creatures, finful dust and ashes, have many times professed it is our happiness to joyn with those Heavenly Inhabitants in admiring, worshipping, bleffing and loving thee, the great Lord of all; with pure hearts, in unity of Spirit, fincere friendship, and brotherly accord one with another. We have often fpoken great things of thee; and declared thy service to be the sweetest pleafure, and one Hour spent in holy Meditations, devout affections, and chearful thanksgivings, to be far better than all the time we fpend in other employments.

How much then, if we mean fincerely,

cerely, and according to our words, should our hearts rejoyce that we may spend a Day in thy Courts, and are invited to a longer attendance on thy divine Majesty, in the duties of thy worship and service. We are assamed that any weariness should feize on our spirits; and that it should be irksom to us, to renew our thoughts and acknowledgments of thy infinite goodness. Behold, O Lord, we are resolved again to address our selves unto thee with praise and thanksgiving, for granting us fuch happy opportunities to look back to thee, the Author of our being; to lift up our Souls towards our Heavenly Country; and unite them to the first and chiefest good; from whence we derive whatfoever we have, or hope to enjoy. Befeeching thee to help us to draw near unto thee, with hearts full of wonder at thy incomprehensible Majesty; full of love to thy most wife and Almighty goodness; full of thankfulness for thy

thy benefits; full of defires to be what thou wouldst have us; and full of joy that thou wouldst have us be fo happy, in being made thy children, partakers of a Divine Nature, and heirs of immortal life.

We admire thy Glory, O great Lord of Heaven and Earth, which shines in the whole Creation; thy greater glory in the work of our redemption, by the miraculous Birth, Life, Death, and Refurrection of Christ Jesus; and the greatest of all, which we hope and wait for at his appearing, when he shall come to be admired in his Saints, and glorified in all them that believe. Thou hast done great things for us already, thou hast promised to do greater, and thou art Daily performing thy promifes, and preparing us for the accomplishment of them all, in the highest blessedness.

O God of all grace, make us wifer Stewards, than we have been, of thy manifold gifts and graces, which we

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are entrusted withal. Help us carefully to husband this facred opportunity which thou continuest to us, to the best advantage of our immortal Souls. Gather in our thoughts from our ordinary business. Fix them on thy felf; and hold them in the contemplation of thy infinite mercies, and of those Divine Truths which represent our Duty, and thy exceeding love and kindness towards us. Chase away all worldly affections, and overawe our spirits with a sense of thy Divine Presence; that by serving thee with a religious reverence this Day, we may be disposed to walk in thy fear all the rest of our lives: Having a grateful remembrance of thy benefits; a deep and serious reflection upon our own resolutions, and thy gracious promises; an holy jealousie over our felves, lest we should be unfaithful to them; and a pious care in all things to approve our felves the constant and diligent fervants of the Lord Jesus.

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O that our thankfulness, and good affections, and zealous defires, may not end with our prayers, nor conclude with this Day: But we may be poffesfed with such a strong and habitual sense of thee, and of our obligations to thee; that we may every day earnestly and heartily serve thee in all the actions of Christian piety, and be unwearied in well doing unto the conclusion of our lives. this, O heavenly Father, with all other things, which thou judgest neceffary for us, or for thy whole Church; whose services this day we humbly befeech thee, may be acceptable to thee, through the merits and intercession of Christ Jesus, our most bleffed Lord and Saviour. To whom, with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be rendred, as is most due, all Honour, Thanksgiving and Praise, with the most affectionate and faithful Obedience, both now and for evermore, Amen.

Another,

Another.

Most holy, great and glorious Majesty of heaven and earth. To whom all the blessed Company above, do with the highest admiration, and love, give continual praise, and thanks, and honour, and worship, and obedience; acknowledging thou art above all that they are able to speak of thee, or ascribe and render to thee. Much more art thou exalted above the thoughts of fuch poor mortals as we, who are clothed with flesh, and live far remote from the throne of thy glory. And yet, fuch is thy goodness, thou condescendest to admit, nay, to draw us to a fellowship with those holy spirits; that we may thereby be made happy, and called thy fervants, though, when we have done the best we can, very unprofitable.

What is man, that thouart mindful of him? what are the Sons of

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men that thou dost at all consider them? thou hast crowned us with glory and honour here below, and raised us to a Dominion over the works of thy hands. Thou hast endued us with understandings to know thee, and with wills to love thee; whose most excellent wisdom, Almighty power, and surpassing goodness, we discover in all thy works of wonder.

But what is finful man, that thou shouldest so much regard him, as to send after him, to seek and save him, when he was lost? Lord! what grace was this, that thou shouldest vouchfafe to speak with us, and communicate any thing of thy mind to such forgetful and ungrateful wretches?

But that thou shouldst speak to us by thy Son, and declare thy mind in such words of grace and favour, and publish such kind intentions towards us, and recover us with so must cost, and purchase us to thy self with the precious bloud of thy Son

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Son Jesus, and send thy holy Spirit to purishe us; that we might have thy Image renewed in us, and be made sit society for thy self again, and restored to immortal life: Lord! how much doth it exceed all belief, hadst thou not given us, in tender mercy, such abundant assurance of it?

We have those reasons to bless thee, which the Angels have not. We must admire thee, not only as the great Creator and Preserver of all things; which we heartily do, and give thee the glory of all thy marvellous works: but also as the Redeemer of Mankind out of a forforn condition, by the manifestation of thy felf in our flesh, by the bloud of thy Son, the constant breathings of the Holy Ghost, the light of thy Gospel, and an unwearied patience, which hath waited on us, and propounded to us no less happiness, than to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; who is advanced far above

bove all principalities and powers, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but in that also which is to come.

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We praise thee, O God; we magnifie thy most holy Name; we confess our selves bound to thee, above all other Creatures, that we have any knowledge of: for we are twice thy Creatures, and thou hast a double title to all we have. Offir up all that is within us to bless thee, and love thee, and offer up the facrifice of thankfgiving to thee Fill our hearts with joy and gladness, that we have another opportunity, wherein to recount thy mercies to us; to be further instructed in thy mind and will declared by our Saviour; and to be under the comfortable influences of Heaven, to cherish those holy thoughts, affections, and resolutions which are begun in us, and to promote our growth and encrease in all wisdom, goodness and vertue.

Possess us with fuch a strong sense

of

Prayers for Families. Sunday of thy continued love towards us that we may testifie our true and hearty thankfulness for it, by attentive consideration of all that we hear out of thy Holy Word; and by laying it up in our hearts; and esteeming it more than the greatest Treasures of this World; and endeavouring every Day to have our conversation as becometh the Gospel of Christ. That fo our praifes being not merely words, but real deeds, and all the fruits of righteousness; we may be bleffed in our deed, and at last hear our Lord speaking to us in those gracious words; Come ye bleffed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the beginning of the World. And let thy merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers and thankful acknowledgments of thy whole Church. Which we befeech thee to defend and cleanse; and because it cannot continue in safety without thee, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness. The whole body of it is governed and fanctified

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fanctified by thy Spirit, whose Heavenly Grace we implore for all estates of men in thy Holy Church; that every Member of the same in his Vocation and Ministry, may truly and godlily serve thee, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Who was content to die for us; and is raised from the dead, and now lives for evermore, to make intercession for us; to whom with thee, O Father of Mercies, and thy Holy Spirit, be eternal Praises. Amen.

A Prayer for the Morning, when there is a Communion.

O Most holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty; the Father of mercies, the God of peace and comfort, by whose power we, and all things else, were created, and by whose good providence we are all preserved and maintained. Be thou eternally blesfed

46 Prayers for Families. Sunday fed and praised, worshipped and served, with the most ardent love, who hast made mankind so like to thy self. and ordered fo many of thy creatures to ferve us, and chosen rather to make us anew, and create us again in Christ Jesus unto good Ephef. 2, 10. works, than let us be undone by our shameful disobedience to thee. For thou haft fent thy only begotten Son into the John 3. 16. world (adored be thy inconceivable love) that who soever believeth in him might not perish, but have everlasting life. And he hath laid down his life for that end, and redeemed us by his bloud from the hands of our enemies; and triumphed over them all most gloriously; and in token thereof ascended into Heaven; and possessed the Crown of Immortal Life, and fate down at thy right hand, and obtained dominion over Angels, and Men and all Creatures. We have felt the bleffed fruits of

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Sunday. Prayers for Families. 47.

his Death, and Resurrection, and Royal Power, whereby he is able to

Save to the uttermost all them that come to thee by

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Heb. 7. 25.

him. Thy holy Spirit hath breathed often into our hearts: we have been instructed in the Gospel of thy grace: and thy Servants, the Ministers of thy Word, have not ceased to call upon us, yea, to importune us to follow after our Saviour, to that heavenly bliss in which he lives. And now again thou vouchsafest to us an happy opportunity to improve our selves in Christian Wisdom, Devotion, and holiness; and we have received thy kind invitations to the nearest approaches to thy Divine Majesty.

O fill us, we pray thee, with a lively and strong sense of thy bounteous goodness, which hath been so many ways expressed towards us. Fill us with pious dispositions to receive more of it according to thy precious promises in Christ Jesus. Stir up in

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us fuch thankful acknowledgments to Thee, fuch hearty resolutions to obey Thee, fuch earnest desires and longings to partake more and more of thy Divine Nature, such love, delight, and joy in well doing; that our fouls may be lifted up above, to that glorious place where our dear Saviour is; and we may comfortably expect, and be truly prepared for, a bleffed translation thither at the great

Day of his appearing.

Our great unfruitfulness, we confess, in the knowledge of Christ, may justly make thee deny thy gracious influences from Heaven upon But, O God of all grace, who multipliest mercy, and delightest in doing good, pardon us and make us better; by the bloud of thy Son interceding for us, and the power of thy Spirit working in us. Quicken our Souls to hear thy Holy Word with greater fear and reverence; to fing thy praises with greater chearfulness and gladness; to pray to thee with

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with more earnest affection and steadiness of mind to approach to thy holy Table, with the deepest humility and devotion of spirit; and to receive the renewed pledges of thy love, to our very great encrease in Faith, and Hope, and Love to Thee, and to all the World: that so this may be a good Day to our Souls, and we may be disposed and enabled to spend the rest of our Days better, as becomes the redeemed of the Lord, who have tafted how gracious he is, and who have received the earnest of Eternal Life. O that our conversation may be in Heaven, by the constant love and exercise of. purity, righteousness, mercy and godliness: That we ever studying to glorifie thee, our heavenly Father, by bearing much of this good fruit, may have the more affured hope, that thou wilt glorifie us with thy felf.

And inspire, we beseech thee, the hearts of all others that meet toge-

Prayers for Families. Sunday. ther this day, to magnifie thy great and glorious Name, with the like religious affections towards thee Kings of the earth, and Pfal, 148; 11, all people; Princes, and all Judges of the earth: Both young men and Maidens, old men and children; let them praise the Name of the Lord; for his Name alone is excellent, his Glory is above the earth and heaven. Let them offer to him the Sacrifice of Pfal. 107. 22. thanksgiving, and declare his works with rejoycing. Let them present themselves 4 Rom. 12, 1. living sacrifice, holy, asceptable unto him, which is our reasonable service. Teach us all, O God, the way of thy Statutes; and enable us Pfal. 119. 35. to keep it unto the end. Dispose our hearts to such a love of all Christian Virtues that we may put on (as thy elect children Colof. 3. 10, boly and beloved) bowels 11,00. of mercies, kindness,

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Sunday. Prayers for Families. humbleneß of mind, meekneß, longsuffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave us, incline us also to do. And above all these things to put on charity, which is the bond of perfect ness. And let the peace of thee our God rule in our hearts, to which we are called in one body; and make us ever truly thankful. Hear us, we befeech thee, O most merciful Father; and after we have perfected holiness here in thy fear, bring us all to complete our praises and thanksgivings to thee, in the great Assembly of Saints and Angels, through Christ Jesus our blessed Lord and Saviour: To 2 Pet. 3. ult. whom be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

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A Prayer at Night when there hath been a Communion.

Eternally bleffed Lord God; the Creator of the World, the Father of Angels and men, the King of infinite Majesty and Power, who canst do what thou pleasest every where. The hea-2 Chron.6.18. ven, and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; who art enthroned only in thy own greatness, and crowned with the glory of thy own uncommunicated perfections. There is nothing can be added to thee by us or any other creatures; of whose services thou hast no need, feeing thou art absolutely happy in thy felf, and givest to all life, and breath, and Acts 17. 25. all things. But it is our perfection and happiness to admire and praise thee, whom we cannot comprehend; to love thee as much as we know thee; and to obey thee

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Sunday. Prayers for Families. 53
as much as we love thee, with a perfect heart, and with a
willing mind; for the
Lord fearcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the

thoughts.

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We praise thee therefore, O God, we acknowledge thee to be the Lord. We give thee the glory that is due unto thy name: and with hearty love offer up our felves again entirely unto thee, whose we are, and for whom we were made. Justice and gratitude, fear and love, hope and interest, whatsoever hath any power to move our hearts, do all press, and mightily urge us constantly to devote and confecrate our fouls and bodies to thy faithful fervice. We cannot neglect thee, unless we will cast away our selves; nor sin against thee, unless we will be our own accusers, judges and tormentors; and throw our selves into the greatest miseries. Thou hast been so good to us, that if we should not D 3 become

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54 Prayers for Families. Sunday.

become good likewise, we must hate and abhor our selves; who cannot but love and delight in those who show us any kindness, and bestow any benefits upon us: though they are but thy Ministers and Servants, that have nothing, and can do nothing, but what thou hast given them,

and inclinest them to do.

By thee we were formed and brought out of our Mothers Womb. And by a greater mercy were early born again, and made thy children in Christ Jesus. We have been thy care ever fince; and been instructed in that Covenant of Grace (into which at our Baptism we were received) by the knowledge thou haft given us of thy bleffed Gospel. Wherein we read the great love of our Saviour in dying for us; and have the promise of his Spirit to fanctifie and govern us; his holy Precepts for the rule of our actions; his glorious example to excite and quicken us; and the hope of eternal

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blifs, by his Resurrection from the dead, to encourage and comfort us in well doing. And in the mean time we enjoy the society of thy Saints; the Ministry of thy Angels; and the direction and assistance of thy faithful servants, thy Ambassadors of peace and reconciliation with thee.

All which fruits of thy wonderful love we have long enjoyed; and thou hast this day entertained us at thy Table: where thou hast refreshed us with the Communion of the body and bloud of Christ Jesus; the earnest of a blessed Resurrection,. and the pledge of immortality. fides innumerable good things, which thy most tender mercy hath been pleafed to bestow upon our bodies, to make our paffage to that bleffednefs, through all the troubles and dangers of this life, the more easie and delightful to us. And all this thou hast done for those who have been too idle and ufelefs, cold and

dull, inconstant, and soon weary of their duty, forgetful of benefits, and unfaithful to their own promises. But thy infinite goodness still continues to do it; to make us more diligent, more zealous, more stedsast and immovable, more mindful of thee, and of our own holy purposes, that we may be abundant, as there is reason, in the work of our Lord, knowing that our labour shall not be in vain in

the Lord.

And that is the most sincere and fervent desire of our souls likewise, who here most humbly beseech thee, by the power of thy Holy Spirit to preserve in us a perpetual and affectionate remembrance of all thy undeserved kindness to us. Stir up all that is within us every morning to bless and praise thy Holy Name: That by a renewed, serious acknowledgment of thy benefits, we may be more and more stirred up to love, and to all good works. O that the Lord Jesus may be always in our thoughts,

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Sunday. Prayers for Families. 57 thoughts, and in our hearts; that we may make Him our pattern, as he is our hope! O that nothing may be fo dear unto us in this world, as his holiness, his humility, his goodness and charity, his meekness and patience, his entire trust in thee, and refignation to thee, his delight to do thy will, O God, in hope of that eternal life, which thou Tit. 1. 1. who canst not lie hast promised to us. Fix our minds and affections more stedfastly on that glory wherewith he is crowned, by his obedient suffering of death, that we may never be weary nor faint in our minds under any fufferings for welldoing: but continuing faithful to. the death, may also receive the Crown of Life. And be graciously pleased, O Lord, to fulfil the devout prayers of thy Church, which : have been this day offered unto thee for all mankind; Especially for all Christian people, for these Kingdoms,

for our Sovereign and all the Royal

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Family, for our Spiritual Pastors and Governours, for all forts and conditions of men among us. Let all those supplications for Grace, Mercy and Peace; together with all the Praises and Thanksgivings which have been rendred for all thy Blessings, be ever acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, our Strength and our Redeemer.

And particularly, we befeech thee to accept of this our bounden duty and service; pity our great weaknesses; pardon all our fins and negligences; and deny us not the grace of thy Holy Spirit, which we have implored, to enable us to amend our lives according to thy holy Word: But after thou hast refreshed us with quiet sleep this night, let us feel it moving our hearts to the same holy thoughts, acknowledgments, defires and refolutions which it now works in us ; through thy mercy declared to us in Christ Jesus. In whose words we conclude

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Sunday. Prayers for Families. 59 our Prayers, faying, as he hath taught us.

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Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, &c.

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FOR FAMILIES.

MUNDAT

MORNING.

X7 E humble our felves. O Lord of Heaven and Earth, before thy glorious Majesty; we heartily acknowledge thy Sovereign Dominion over us and all creatures; we praise & magnifie thy eternal Power, Wildom, Goodness and Truth; and we render thee our most unfeigned thanks for the innumerable benefits which thou in thy bounty hast loaded us withal: Above all for the gracious declaration thou hast made of thy good will to us in Christ Jesus; by whom thou hast invited and encouraged finners to return to thee, and directed them in the way to everlafting bliss.

We blush to think of our shameful forgetfulness of thee, and ingratitude to thee; to whom we owe all that we have in this world, and all our hopes in the next. We most humbly implore thy tender mercies in the forgiveness of all our sins, whereby we have offended, either in thought, word or deed, against thy just and holy Laws. For we are truly forry for all our mif-doings: we utterly renounce whatfoever is contrary to thy will, and here devote our felves entirely to the obedience thereof. Accept, O most merciful Father, of this renewed Dedication, which we make of our whole man, body, foul and spirit to thee. And as thou dost infpire us with holy resolutions, fo accompany them always with the affiftance of thy grace; that we may be able every day to offer up our felves more fincerely, and more cheerfully to thee: with more pure affection, and hearty devotion, and ready difposition to thy service.

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We adore thy great grace which hath brought falvation to us, and teaches us that denying allungodliness and worldly lusts, Tit. 2. 11, 12, should live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. We will endeavour, O Lord, to preferve a grateful fense of thy mighty love in our minds, and to follow the Doctrine and example of thy Son Christ Jesus; as becomes those who have fuch a bleffed hope, and look for fo great Salvation at the day of his glorious appearing. We desire above all things to be fo pure and undefiled, fo meek and gentle, fo humble and lowly, fo just and merciful, so peaceable and patient, contented and thankful as our bleffed Lord and Master was: And we hope that thou wilt fulfil all the gracious promifes he hath made to us, which we efteem far greater treasure than thousands of gold and filver. They are the fupport, the comfort, the fatisfaction of our hearts. We ask nothing, but that

that it may be to thy servants accord-

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ing to his Word.

Thou hast mercifully kept us the last night, blessed be thy continued goodness, and raised us again to see the light of this morning: Receive us likewise all this day into thy protection, to which we most humbly commit our selves. We trust our selves and all belonging to us with thee our Creator and Redeemer. We submit to thy orders, and are willing to do and suffer what thou pleasest:

Jude 21. Waiting for the mercy of our Lord Christ Jesus un-

to eternal life.

And we defire, thou knowest, the good of all mankind, as well as our own; especially of all Christian People: that they may all walk worthy of the Gospel, and live together in unity and godly love. For which end, we pray that all Christian Kings, Princes and Governours, may be wise, pious, just and merciful; endeavouring that all their subjects

Munday. Prayers for Families. jects may lead peaceable lives under them, in all godliness and honesty. And more particularly that our Sovereign may be bleffed with a religious, quiet, long and prosperous Reign: and that all his Ministers of State, and Officers of Justice, may conscientiously discharge the trust that is reposed in them; seeking in their several places how to right the oppressed, to comfort the afflicted, to provide for the poor and needy, and to relieve all those that are in any mifery. Bless all our spiritual Pastors and Instructors: succeed their labours; and give us grace

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[ake; and to be at peace among our felves. The same blessings we crave for all our friends, relations and acquaintance; that we may all live in perfect love and peace together; doing our duties to thee, to each other, and to all men so faithfully,

to follow their godly admonitions,

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that we may give a comfortable account of our felves, and rejoyce together at the great day of the Lord Jefus. In whose holy words we befeech thee to help us still more heartily to offer up our desires to thee.

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

A ther; by whom we were made, and in whom we live, move, and have our being: to whose tender compassions we owe our safety the day past, together with all the comforts of this present life, and the hopes of that which is to come. We praise and laud thee, O Lord, the Creator and Governour of the world. We ascribe all Greatness, Might, Majesty, Wisdom, Riches and Bounty to thee; whom all the Host of Heaven

ac- ven continually admires and acknowto ledges with the most joyful reveord rence. We bow our selves likewise before thee, and worship thee, in an humble fenfe that we are nothing in comparison with thee, and have nothing but what we receive from thee. Unto thee do we give Pfall 75. 1. thanks, unto thee do me Pfal. 43. 4. give thanks, O God, our exceeding joy, who daily powrest thy benesits upon us.

Bleffed be thy great Goodness, for the long health, which by thy favour we have enjoyed; for our Food and our raiment; for our peace and our fafety; for the fociety of our friends, and the love of our neighbours; for the fuccess thou hast given to our honest labours after the things of this life, and to our pious endeavours to attain that life which is immortal We can never blefs thee enough for that wonderful Grace, which fent Je fus Christ to reveal that eternal life to us, and to direct us in the way that leads

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leads unto it; by his dwelling among us, and by his dying for us, and by his rising again to be the Lord of Life and Glory, and to send his Apostles to preach this glad tidings of Salvation to the world. We thank thee with all our souls, that we feel in our hearts any motion towards thee; and that we have made the least progress in those paths of Life, which thy goodness hath laid before us so plainly in thy holy Gospel.

Behold, O Lord, we present our felves here before thee to be inspired with such a vigorous and full sense of thy love, as may move us more powerfully towards thee; and put us forward with a greater earnestness, zeal and diligence in all our duty. There is nothing in heaven or earth that we can desire, but to be beloved of thee; who possesses beloved of thee; who possesses as great and happy as thou pleasest. Assist us therefore still by thy grace, to the recovery of such a lively Image of

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thee in all righteousness, purity, mercy, faithfulness and truth; that we may know thou lovest us. O that Jesus, the hope of glory may be formed in us, in all humility, meekness, patience, contentedness, peaceableness, and absolute surrender of our souls and bodies to thy holy will and pleasure: That we may no longer live, but Christ may live in us, and the life we lead in the flesh may be by the faith of thy Son, O God, who loved us, and gave himself for us.

The remembrance of that love is most dear and precious to us. We cannot often enough make mention of so great kindness, as his making himself freely an offering for our sins. It moves us, again to offer up our selves sincerely to thee, to do thy will, O God, as our blessed Lord and Master did. We repose also an entire considence in thee, & still trust our selves with thee, who hast not

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Prayers for Families. Munday. Mu given him up for us all. We will hum- rich bly and reverently accept of whatfo fo h ever thou fendeft us; and in every thing give thanks, which is 1 Theff. 5.18. thy will concerning us in Christ Jesus. We hope thou wilt never leave us, nor forfake us : but conduct us fafe through all varieties and changes of our condition here, in an unchangeable love to thee, and in an holy composure and tranquillity of mind in thy love to us, till we come to live with thee, & enjoy thee for ever. And now that we are going to lay our selves down to sleep, take us into thy gracious protection; and fettle our spirits in such quiet and delightful thoughts of the glory where our Lord Jesus lives, that we may be willing to leave this world, and go to him: Who died for us, 1 Theff. 5. 10. that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. To his bleffing we commendall mankind, of whatsoever rank and

condition they be; high and low,

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um. rich and poor: that they may all be atfo fo happy as to do their feveral duties very carefully, and to enjoy contentedly chis what soever is needful for them. And in especially we beseech thee, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by thy Governance, that thy Church may joyfully serve thee in all Godly quietness. We leave all we have with thee, especially our friends, and those who are dear unto us; desiring that when we are dead and gone, they may lift up their Souls in this manner unto thee, and teach those that come after to praise, love and obey thee: and that, if we awake again in the morning, our mouths may likewife praise thee again with joyful lips, and we may still offer our selves a more acceptable Sacrifice to thee through Christ Jesus. In whose words we befeech thee to hear us, according to the fullest sence and intention of them.

Our Father, &c.

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PRAYERS

FOR FAMILIES.

TUESDAT

MORNING.

LL honour, glory and praise be A given to thee, O Lord, our Creator, Redeemer and Comforter, by us, and by all the World. Thou art worthy of all our love, fervice and obedience, being most excellent in thine own nature, and of fo abundant kindness to us thy creatures. Who most humbly therefore prostrate our selves before thee this Morning, to make thee our thankful acknowledgments for all thy benefits, and tender thee our most hearty and affectionate service, and wait upon thy bounty for the continuance of thy grace and mercy to us.

Though we are not worthy, we confess, of the least regard from thee, whom we have so much neglected, and whose love and clemency we have too often abused; yet we hope thou wilt accept of this small oblation which we make of our felves, our fouls and bodies, with unfeigned devotion to thee. Pardon and forgive us, we most humbly beseech thee, all our past offences; the remembrance of which is grievous and bitter to us: and vouchfafe us the grace of thy holy Spirit to enable us to do thy will with greater care and diligence for the time to come. Let it ever accompany and affift us, according as thou feest us sincerely desirous and studious to please thee, in all the actions of an holy life, in chastity and temperance, justice and fidelity, mercy and charity, meekness and humility, patience and contentedness, innocency and peace; and in continual prayers, praises and thanksgivings to thee, the Father of mercies in Christ We Jesus our Lord.

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We see how frail and weak our bodies and all their enjoyments are; and therefore we the more earnestly defire to have our fouls enriched with those immortal treasures of thy Divine Grace. O that we may never cease most zealously to seek and purfue them; and that we may think our felves happy enough in the poffession of them; and may rejoyce in nothing fo much, as in having our

fruit unto holiness, that in Rom. 6. 22. the end we may attain

eternal life. Suffer not our spirits to fink too deep into the love of any, the dearest good, that we have in this world: But rather by all these earthly things, which thy goodness affords to us for our support, ease and delight, raise our minds and hearts to those Celestial enjoyments which will yield us eternal pleasure and fatisfaction. Set our affections principally on things above. Make us fo wife as to provide our felves friends that never die; and to be still preparing

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our selves by all divine qualities for their company and society: that so they may receive us, when we remove hence, into their ever-

Luke 16.9. lasting habitations.

Thus now we commend our felves this day to thy most gracious protection, guidance and bleffing: hoping that the same good providence which preserved us and our habitations the last night, from fire, and innumerable other dangers (for which we thank thee) will guard us this day from all evil and mischief, and bring us in safety of soul and body to praise thee in the Evening. Help us thankfully to receive, and soberly to use all thy mercies; quietly to do our own business, and bear our several burdens; to be just in our dealings; innocent and harmless in our converfation; well pleased with the prosperity of our neighbours; desirous of the good of all the World: especially that they may all love, and honour, and joyn together in magnifying

ing and praising thee, our Lord and Governour, whose Name is excellent in all the Earth.

More particularly, we implore thy mercies towards these Kingdoms wherein we live. Remember not against us our high provocations. Spare us good Lord, and have patience with us; if perhaps we may bring forth better fruit, becoming thy holy Go spel, and all the care thou hast taken about us. Endue our Sovereign with much Wisdom from above, that he may always discern what is most profitable for us, and earnestly pursue it to the utmost of his power. Bless him in his Relations; in his Counfellors; in his Judges, and all other Officers; in all the Nobility, Clergy, Gentry and Commonalty of the Realm: that every one of them may uprightly and zealously do their duty; to the maintenance of thy true Religion, and the encrease of Piety, Honesty and Brotherly love among us. Comfort and relieve all those

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78 Prayers for Families. Tuesday.

that are in any distress, trouble or anguish, either of body or of mind. And give us tender and pitiful hearts towards them, ready to help and ease them according to our abilities: That we following the example of our merciful and compassionate High Priest Christ Jesus, may have now the benefit of his intercession for us, and at last be admitted into the high and holy place where he is: In whose blessed Name and words, we conclude our Prayers.

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

Lord of Heaven and Earth, and worship thee in the deepest humility of our souls: acknowledging that we are thy Creatures, who stand infinitely bound unto thee, by innumerable

merable bleffings and favours which thou hast conferred upon us, out of thy mere bounty and goodness. We owe our lives to that alone, and all the comforts of them; together with all the hopes we have hereafter, either in this World, or in the other. And bleffed, for ever bleffed be thy merciful kindness, for giving such glorious hopes by the Lord Jesus : By his Death, and Resurrection; by his Ascension, and being enthroned at thy right hand; and by the coming of the Holy Ghoft to be a witness of his Majesty and Glory. Werejoyce, O Lord, in that great falvation which thou hast sent unto us; and cannot but be ftill praising thee, whose love hath so abounded towards us, beyond all our thoughts and defires. Pardon, we most humbly befeech thee, out of the fame grace and mercy, all our past neglects of thee, our infenfibleness of thy benefits, our carelesness, or inconstancy in our obedience, and parricularly E 4

cularly whatsoever we have done or omitted this day, contrary to those holy purposes and resolutions where-

in we stand engaged to thee.

And vouchfafe us the affiftance of thy holy Spirit to enable us to perform those vows better, which here we renew of greater gratitude, and more chearful and stedfast obedience to thy Divine Majesty for the time to come. Awaken our minds to frequent and serious resections upon thy undeserved and most bountiful mercies towards us. Touch our hearts with such an ingenuous and dutiful sense of them, that our wills may be overcome to yield themselves wholly and absolutely to thee.

And that we may feel them conflantly provoked to love and good works, help us ever to fet our Lord and Master, by whose name we are called, before our eyes; and to admire his unspotted purity, his condescending humility, his tender-hearted charity, his meekness of wisdom, his

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hearty trust in thee, and resignation to thee, his forgiveness of injuries, his patience under reproaches and cruel torments, his peaceable and contented spirit, his acknowledging thee in all things, and ever feeking thy Honour and Glory: that being in love with all thefe, and valuing them more than life it felf, we may never cease our endeavours till this Image of our dearest Lord and Master be formed in our hearts.

O Lord Jesus favourably behold these holy desires, wherewith our fouls aspire towards thee. Preserve and maintain them; encourage and encrease them; make them restless and unwearied till they be accomplished in the enjoyment of this great

bleffedness.

Thou who haft begun a good work in us, finish and complete it, we most humbly and earnestly befeech thee. Give us thy grace continually for our feafonable relief and fuccour, that we persevering in well doing,

may have a folid and lively hope in our death, of coming to fee thee in that high and holy place where thou livest and reignest for evermore.

As for all the things of this life, we most heartily refer our selves to thy Fatherly Wisdom and Goodness, O Lord God Almighty: trusting thou wilt order for us that which is most convenient, and bless our honest diligence with fuch a competent portion of them, that we may have the more leifure to give continual praise, honour, bleffing and thanksgiving to thee whose mercies endure for ever.

Accept, we pray thee, of our thankful acknowledgments at this time, for those which this day hath added to the rest of thy benefits, which thou hast been continually heaping upon us ever fince we were born. And let all the people of the earth praise the Name of the Lord, which is highly exalted above all bleffing and praife. Othat all the Kingdoms of the World would become the Kingdoms of our

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Saviour Christ: and that all they who acknowledge his authority, would religiously obey his holy Laws; that all wars, oppression and cruelty may cease among Christian people, and they may live together in brotherly love and unity. Make our Sovereign and all his Realms happy by a great encrease of true knowledge, godliness and vertue every where. Bless all our friends; forgive our Enemies; requite all the kindness of our benefactors; comfort every one of thy desolate and afflicted servants; and turn their mourning and heaviness, into joy and gladness at the last.

And now that we are going to repose our selves; keep us, we beseech thee, and all belonging to us, in safety. Refresh our wearied spirits with comfortable rest and sleep; and when we awaken again in the morning, direct our thoughts immediately to thee, our merciful preserver; and help us to imploy all our renewed strength to thy honour and glory, ac

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84 Prayers for Families. Tuesday. cording to thy will declared by Christ Jesus; in whose blessed Name and Words we commend our selves to thy infinite Mercies.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, &c.

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FOR FAMILIES.

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MORNING.

Most great and mighty Lord; the Possessor of Heaven and Earth. All the Angels worship and adore thy incomprehensible Majesty with the humblest reverence; and rejoyce in rendring praise, blessing and thanksgiving to Thee, the Father of Spirits: For thou hast created all things, and in wisdom hast thou made them all, and spread thy tender mercies over all thy works. It is no less our happiness than our duty to joyn our hearts and voices with that heavenly host, most gratefully to acknowledge thy bounty to us among the rest

86 Prayers for Families. Wednesday.

rest of thy creatures; and thy particular grace and favour in our Lord Jesus Christ, our most merciful Saviour and Redeemer. We can never fufficiently admire that love which gave him to die for us, and hath made him the Lord of life and glory; that he may be the Author of eternal Salvation to all those that obey him. All the love we have is too little to give thee, to whom all our fervices are due by a former title. Our highest praises fall infinitely short of thy most excellent Majesty; and we are ashamed of the most affectionate thanks we can render to thee for those inestimable benefits which thou hast conferred on us, and fo long continued to us.

How much greater reason then have we to be abashed at our shameful ingratitude and disobedience to thy Divine Majesty; for which we are heartily forry, and do now most earnestly repent our selves of it: unfeignedly resolving and protesting to

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be more faithful to thee for the time to come. Pardon us therefore, Good Lord, and receive us unto thy mercy. Accept of our renewed vows to study and do our duties conscientiously, towards thee, and towards all men. And as thou hast excited those holy desires and purposes in our hearts, to enable us to perform them constantly in the whole course of our life.

Our bleffed Saviour hath told us, thou wilt as readily give thy holy Spirit to them that ask it as a Parent will give bread to his hungry chil-O Father of mercies, let it be unto us according to his Word. Cherish these little beginnings of goodness which thou feest in our fouls; and prosper all our endeavours to attain a greater measure of it. And since at the best we are but unprofitable fervants, & can do no more than was our duty to do : enable us to do every thing, which thou haft commanded us, heartily, with good will, and true love to thy fervice.

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We know this is all that can, in the least, commend us to thy free grace and favour: and therefore we most humbly again devote our selves to do thy Will, with a cordial affection to it. We would ever approach unto thee with delight and pleasure: and feel it the joy of our hearts to think of thee, to praise thee, to give thee thanks, and to offer our felves with absolute resignation to thee. O that Mercy may always please us as it pleaseth Thee! that we may be frictly just and righteous; may chearfully pass by injuries; freely deny all defires of finful pleasures; willingly fubmit to thy fatherly corrections; and perform the duties of our feveral relations, with fingleness ofheart. Render us so mindful of the great love of our Lord and Master Christ, that we may be zealously concerned for his glory, and use our utmost diligence to do Him and his Religion some honour in the World: delighting to commemorate his Death

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Wednesday. Prayers for Families. 89

Death and Passion, making a joyful facrifice of our souls and bodies to him, and desiring most earnestly that his Kingdom may come, and all mankind submit themselves to his Government.

Fulfil, most merciful Lord, all our petitions; and as thou hast mightily protected us, and our dwellings this last night from fire and thieves, and whatsoever might disturb our repose (blessed be thy goodness) so accompany us all this day with thy blessing: that we may please thee in body and soul, and be safe under thy defence; who art nigh to all those that call upon thee in truth.

And O that all those who are forgetful of their duty to thee, may be awakened to a lively sense of all thy benefits, and fill the whole world with thy praises. Stir up especially the minds of all Christian People, to inquire after and follow the Truth, as it is in Jesus: abandoning all Vice and

90 Prayers for Families. Wednesday.

and wickedness, and exercising themfelves to have consciences void of offence, towards thee, and towards all men. And difpose the hearts of all their Kings and Princes, to make themselves the greatest examples of Christian Piety to all others. these Kingdoms, and endue our Sovereign with fuch excellent Wifdom & holy Zeal for thy honour and glory; that we may fee many good days under his Government. O that true Religion, Justice, Mercy, Brotherly kindness, and all things else that are praise-worthy, may so flourish among us; that we may enjoy the bleffings of peace and plenty, and there may be no complaining in our streets.

We recommend to thee all our friends and neighbours; all the poor, the fick, and other afflicted persons: desiring those mercies for them which we should ask for our selves, were we in their condition: O God, whose never failing Providence ordereth all things both in heaven & earth; put away

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Wednesday. Prayers for Families. 91

from them and us, we humbly befeech thee, all hurtful things, and give us those things which be prositable for us; according to the large declarations which thou hast made of thy abundant goodness to Mankind in our Lord Jesus. In whose words we conclude our humble supplications unto thee; saying,

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

A Lmighty and everlasting God; the Sovereign Lord of all creatures in Heaven and Earth, and our most merciful and gracious Father in thy Son Christ Jesus. We most heartily acknowledge that our beings, and all the comforts of them depend on thee, the Fountain of all good. We have nothing but what we have received thence; and is owing entirely

O most blessed Creator; and to the unsearchable riches of thy grace, O

most blessed Redeemer.

To thee therefore be given by us and all creatures, whom thou hast made to know how great and how good thou art, all honour, glory and praise; all love, service and obedience, as long as we have any being. It is but meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord; and devoutly refign both foul and body to thee, to be absolutely governed and ruled according to thy holy will and pleafure. We are heartily forry that we have not done it from the very beginning of our lives till this time. We are ashamed to think of our injustice and ingratitude, in following our own defires fo long, and rendring our felves, no fooner, most humbly obedient in all things to thee. Our hopes are only in those infinite mercies, which

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Wednesday. Prayers for Families. 93

which have spared us notwithstanding, and opened our eyes to see our errors, and touched our hearts with

fome sense of our duty.

And we hope in them not only for a pardon, which we earnestly implore according to thy gracious promises made in Christ Jesus, but for the power of thy holy Spirit, to further and promote those godly resolutions, which we feel already in our hearts, to live as becomes thy creatures; and as becomes the Disciples of Jesus Christ, who were early dedicated to thee, and have often fince vowed themselves to thy service. As thou hast made us to understand the reasonableness and goodness of all thy Laws, so incline our wills to be more and more in love with them; till they be writ upon our hearts. Stir up our wills to love them exceedingly, and to cleave unto them as our very life. Let thy grace continually prevent and follow us, to keep alive fuch a powerful sense of thee, and of the

94 Prayers for Families. Wednesday.

the love of our Lord and Saviour in our mind; that we may naturally fear and reverence thee, and study to be approved of thee, and beloved by thee, and account it our highest perfection and happiness to be like thee.

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O that it may ever be the joy of our hearts to be Righteous as thou art Righteous; to be Merciful, as thou our Heavenly Father art Merciful; to be holy, as thou who hast called us art Holy, in all manner of conversation; to be endued with thy DivineWisdom, and to resemble thee in Faithfulness and Truth: O that the memory of our bleffed Saviour, and his admirable example may be always dear unto us: that we may chearfully follow him in his Humility, Meekness, Patience, Contentedness, Peaceableness and Delight to do thy Will, O God, in every thing as he did. Accept, we most humbly befeech thee, of these desires of our souls after thee; and graciously affift and strengthen them, according as we unfeignedly offer them up unto thee. Ac-

Wednesday. Prayers for Families. 95

Accept likewise of our thanks for thy merciful preservation of us all this day; by which we are come in fafety to the conclusion of it, and are here before thee with a new load of thy benefits upon us, added to other innumerable bleffings which thou haft formerly bestowed. We are bold again likewise to commit our selves unto thee this night; and to trust in thy merciful protection and care over us, when we can take no care of our felves, or any thing else belonging to Defend us from all the powers of Darkness, from evil Men, from Fire and all fuch fad accidents: and raise up our spirits, together with our bodies, in the morning, to fuch a vigorous fense of thy continued goodness, as may provoke us all the day long to an unwearied diligence in well doing.

And the same Mercies that we beg for our selves, we desire for the rest of mankind; especially for all those who are called by the name of Christ.

O that every member of that body, of which He is the head, may do their duties with all fidelity, according to the several offices to which thou hast affigned them. That Kings may be tender hearted, as the Fathers of their Countries; and all their Subjects may be dutiful and obedient to them as their children: That the Pastors of the Church may feed thy Flock with true Wisdom and Understanding; and the people may all fubmit unto them, and follow their godly counsels: That the rich and mighty may have compassion on the poor and miserable; and all such distressed people may bless the rich, and rejoyce in the prosperity of those that are above them. Give Husbands and Wives, Parents and Children, Masters and Servants, the grace to behave themselves so in their several Relations, that they may adorn the Doctrine of God our Saviour in all things; and being an honour to his Religion here, may receive immortal honour

Wednesday. Prayers for Families. 97 honour and glory hereafter from the hands of Christ Jesus; in whose holy Name and words, we continue to beseech thy grace and mercy towards us, and all thy People every where: saying,

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, &c.

PRAYERS

FOR FAMILIES.

THURSDAY.

MORNING.

O Lord, the high and holy One, whose glory is a-bove the earth and heaven.

Psal. 148. 12.

We thy Creatures prostrate our selves in the humblest adorations of Thee: ascribing to Thee all Power, Wisdom, Riches, Might, Majesty and Dominion; and acknowledging that to Thee of right belongs all Worship, Blessing, Thanksgiving and Praise; together with all Honour, Love, Service and Obedience for evermore. Blessed be thine Omnipotent goodness, which hath advanced us to such a degree of being, that we are capable to look back to thee from whom

100 Prayers for Families. Thursday.

we come; to know thee, to love thee, to acknowledge thy great bounty towards us, and to relemble thee in Wisdom and Goodness. All that is within us blesseth thy Holy Name, for breathing into us immortal spirits, that we may eternally admire thee, praise thee, love thee, and joyfully render those grateful acknowledgments which we owe unto thee. We can never sufficiently magnifie thy mercies towards us; especially those in the Lord Jesus, in whom thy Grace hath so exceedingly abounded, as to surpass not only our deserts, but the largest of our desires.

Blessed, blessed, for ever blessed be thy fatherly goodness, who hast sent him from heaven so unexpectedly to visit us vile wretches, who dwell in houses of clay, whose foundation is in the dust. Lord! what is man, that thou art mindful of him; or the son of man, that thou didst thus visit him? We thank thee, according to our poor ability, from the very bot-

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Thursday. Prayers for Families. 101 tom of our hearts, for his manifestation in our flesh; for the charitable testimonies he gave of his love to mankind in the course of his life; for that astonishing grace in submit-ting himself to die for us; for his glorious Refurrection and Ascension to Heaven; for the Sovereign Power and Authority which thou hast given him at thy right hand; for his compassionate intercession for us; and the affurances we have received of his being the King of Glory, and of his continued kindness to us, by the coming of the Holy Ghost. We will never cease to bless thee for that great salvation, which was first preached by the Lord, and was confirmed by them that Heb. 2. 3, 4. heard him; and for the witness which thou barest to them, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to thy own will

We rejoyce in the light of thy holy Gospel; that we see the way to be F 3 happy

102 Prayers for Families. Thursday.

happy both by the Doctrine and Example of thy Son Jesus; that we have the encouragement of his precious promifes; and fuch good hope of remission of sin, and eternal life, in the day when he shall judge the world in righteousness. O how much are we bound unto thee, for that comfortable hope which thou hast given us, of feeing our dear Saviour in all his glory, and being there where he is, and reigning with him for ever ! We again render thee our most hearty thanks, for that everlasting confolation and good hope through grace, which thou hast given us: and for all those benefits likewise, which thou art pleased to bestow upon us, to make our stay here on earth the more convenient and delightful to us. We are every way obliged to thee, beyond all that we are able to express or conceive. Thou feedest us, and cleathest us; thou preservest our health, and our firength; they haft delivered us from innumerable dangers; and when

Thursday. Prayers for Families. 103

when thou hast chastised us, it hath been in great mercy and clemency, and not according to our deserving.

O that all the world would shew forth thy praise, and devote themfelves to the service of our Lord. Let all Kings of the Earth fubmit themfelves unto him, and glory in the Name of his obedient Subjects. High and low, rich and poor, let them praise the Name of the Lord, from this time forth and for evermore. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; especially in the assembly of the Saints, and by thy Church and Household; which we befeech thee to keep, and to continue in thy true Religion. As thou shewest to them that be in error the light of thy truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness; so grant unto all them that are admitted into the Fellowship of Christ's Religion, that they may eschew those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same.

F 4

104 Prayers for Families. Thursday.

Accept, most gracious God, of these unseigned desires of us thy servants; who, for our parts, entirely dedicate our selves, both souls and bodies, unto thee: Resolving in all things to walk worthy of thee, who hast called us to thy Kingdom and Glory, and blessed us also with many other good things which make this life to be a more easie passage to a better. We will never forget how much we are indebted to thee: but study to express our grateful remembrance of thy mercies, by living so-

ly in this prefent World; looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God, and our Saviour Jesus Christ. Favour, we pray thee, these holy purposes with the constant assistance of thy good spirit; that we may be able to accomplish what we have begun, and to perfect holiness in thy fear. Help us to

2 Pet. 1 5, 108. add to our faith, vertue; and to vertue, knowledge;

Thursday. Prayers for Families. 105° and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance; and to patience, godlines and to godlines, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity. That these things being

in us and abounding, they may make us to be neither barren, nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Preserve us this day especially; that we swerve not presently from these pious resolutions: But may give such a proof of their sincerity, by our being stedfast and immovable in all well-doing notwithstanding any temptation to the contrary; that we may have the better hope we shall persevere to the very end, through thy continued grace in Christ Jesus; in whose words we desire all that thou sees needful either for our Souls or Bodies, for our selves or others; saying.

our reason and uncos reference and conforts and conveniences of this presentation are

At Night.

7 E are here again prostrate before thee, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, to joyn our selves with all that holy company, who rest not day and night, saying, Rev. 4.8, 11. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to some. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created, Blesfed be thy divine goodness, which hath made the children of men but little lower than the Angels ; and crowned us with fuch glory and honour, that we are capable to accompany that heavenly Host in giving continual thanks & praise unto thee. Praised be thy Name that we are now alive; and that we have the use of our reason and understanding; and enjoy fo many of the comforts and conveniences of this present life; and have

Thursday. Prayers for Families. 107 have attained a good hope through Christ Jesus of being immortally

happy.

O how great was thy love which fent him into the World to direct us in the way to that happiness by his holy doctrine and life; and to be a propitiation for our sin by his death; and to be the first that

Should rise from the dead; Acts 26. 23.

and should show light unto the World. We rejoyce in that light of life: We most chearfully devote our selves to be the faithful Disciples of him, the Prince of peace, the Lord of life and glory. It is our happiness as well as our duty to be governed by him, and obey his commands. We are sensible that they are all equal, just and good and that thou hast done us an infinite kindness, in teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

And therefore we here again most heartily surrender our wills to thine!

desiring

108 Prayers for Families. Thursday.

desiring that we may unchangeably cleave untoit, with the greatest and most entire love and affection to all its Commands. O that there may abide for ever in us fuch a strong and powerful sense of thy mighty love towards us in Christ Jelus, as may constrain us freely and willingly to please thee in the constant exercise of piety and devotion; righteoufness and mercy; temperance and chastity; meekness and patience; truthand fidelity; together with fuch an humble, contented and peaceable spirit, as may adorn the Religion of our Bord and Master. O God, that these boly desires and inclinations may never die, nor languish in our hearts: but be kept alive in their vigour and force, by the perperual inspirations of the Holy Ghoft.

We wait upon thee for that promise of our Saviour, to assist and promote our sincere endeavours, to preserve our Souls unblameable in the love of thee our God, and of

all

Thursday. Prayers for Families. 109 all mankind. We heartily defire the prosperity and welfare of every one of them, as well as our own. O that they were all fo wise and happy as to acknowledge and fubmit themselves to thee, by obeying thy holy Laws. Especially we defire that all Kings and Princes may become our Saviours Subjects; and conforming themfelves to his will, may be rendered thereby most excellent examples to all other men. Endue our Sovereign with abundance of the Spirit of Counsel and Judgment, and the fear of our Lord. Make him happy in wise and faithful Ministers; in loyal and peaceable Subjects; and in the good fuecess of all his enterprises, for the honour of Religion, and his Peoples tranquillity. We commend to thy mercies all our Friends, Relations, and Benefactors: desiring that all who have done us good, may be required an hundred fold here, and obtain at

last eternal life. And all that have done evil to us, as we heartily forgive.

them.

110 Prayers for Families. Thursday.

them, so we earnestly desire they may obtain thy gracious pardon. Together with these, we remember likewise all that are in affliction, whatsoever it be either of soul or body: to whom we wish ease, and comfort, and seasonable relief; that they may rejoyce in the end for the Days where

in they have feen adverfity.

In these holy thoughts and desires we now are bold to commend our felves to thy protection this night; who hast preserved and blessed us (we most thankfully aknowledge) all the day past. We repose our selves in the belief of thy good providence; with which we intrust our selves, and all belonging to us. We would lay down our felves to fleep, with hearts full of love to thee, and humble faith and hope in thee : desiring we may awake again in the same manner, and find that we are still with Thee. Dispose us, good Lord, by the rest thou givest us, always to serve thee more zealoully with our renewed spirits: that after

Thursday. Prayers for Families. 111 after the few days and nights we have to pass in this world, we may come to thy eternal rest together with Christ Jesus. In whose blessed name and words, we still recommend our selves to thy mercies.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come: Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, &c.

PRAYERS

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PRAYERS

FOR FAMILIES.

FRIDAT

MORNING.

God, most blessed for ever: whose the world is, and the fulness thereof; who needest not any thing that we can give thee, for thou givest us whatsoever we enjoy. We prostrate our selves before thee to make fuch poor expressions as we are able, of the sense we have of thine infinite bounty to us. It is but fit and meet that we should acknowledge and praise thee, though we can thereby add nothing unto thee. It is our happiness to have a grateful remembrance of thy goodness to us: and to be knit unto thee in hearty love, and dutiful affection all the days of our life. We

114 Prayers for Families. Friday.

We thank thee therefore, O Lord of heaven and earth, who hast loaded us continually with thy benefits. They are great, and many more than we can number; both towards our bodies, and towards our souls; for the comfort of this life, and our everlasting Salvation in the life to come. For ever adored be thy love in Christ Jesus, who hath given us an undoubted testimony of thy fatherly care and providence over us: and encouraged us, though we have offended thee, to address our selves to thee, with good hope of thy gracious acceptance of us into friendship with thee again.

We love thee, O Lord, above all things. We freely offer our spirits, souls and bodies to Thee, with most sincere devotion, and the heartiest affection to thy service. There is nothing we desire and long for so much, as to have a lively sense of thy marvellous love always possessing our Hearts: that may still constrain us to

love

love thee, to obey thee, to trust in thee, to be content with the portion thy love allots unto us, and to rejoyce even in the midst of all the troubles of this life.

We cannot chuse, O Lord, when we seriously think of what thou hast done for us; but absolutely commit our felves to thee, and entirely confide in thee for the time to come. Since thou hast not spared thy own Son, but delivered him up for Rom. 8. 32. us all, how shalt thou not with him also freely give us all things? We depend upon thee especially for the grace of thy Holy Spirit; for the power of which in our Hearts exciting these holy desires and godly resolutions, we most humbly thank thy Divine Majesty. O that we may feel it perpetually bearing us up by the strength of our most holy faith, and by the power of love and hope, above all the temptations, which at any time affault us. That we may keep our selves unspotted from the world:

world; and no appetite of pleasure, of glory, or of riches may ever carry us from our duty: but we may still cleave to thee in Righteousness, Purity, Humility, Charity, and all other Divine Vertues, of which our Lord hath given us so great an ex-

ample.

For his fake we hope for a favourable acceptance of these our praises, acknowledgments and prayers. For we must be still beholden to thine infinite goodness, for the least regard to any thing that we can do, who are but unprofitable servants. And we wait upon the same goodness for thy bleffing to accompany us all this day; that we may do nothing, but what we know is pleasing to thee, and may be so prospered, protected and assisted by thine Almighty power, that we may return with our hearts full of love and thankfulness to Thee in the Evening, again to praise and magnifie thy continued kindness to us.

Unto which we commend most heartily

heartily the rest of mankind: desiring that they may all know thee, the true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent; whom to know is eternal life. And Othat all Christians would walk worthy of thy high and heavenly Calling: that others feeing their good works, may be invited thereby to acknowledge and glorifie thee our heavenly Father. More particularly we defire fuch an encrease of Wisdom and Goodness, to all Christian Kings and Princes, that all their Subjects may praise thee for the sensible fruits of their care and good Government: and fuch a plentiful portion of the Spirit of thy Grace to all Christian Bishops, Priests, and Deacons; that they may be eminent instruments of thy honour, and their people's good, by the authority of their Doctrine and their godly Example. Make our Sovereign and us all happy in each other; by the faithful discharge of our several duties, in the places wherein thy most high wisdom hath set us. And

And we defire the comfort of those that mourn, the ease of those that are in pain, the health of the fick, the release of poor Prisoners and Captives, the quiet and fatisfaction of those that are in trouble and anguish ofmind, and the true content of all men in whatfoever condition they are: that we may be all continually giving thanks to thee, the Father of mercies, for the joy thou hast set before and the hope we have, by running our Christian race with patience, to come to that bleffed place into which Jesus our fore-runner is already entred for us. By whom we continue to desire, in his own words, that thou mayeft be glorified every where, in our well doing; faying as he hath taught us,

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

Lord, the Almighty Creator and Governour of the World. How great and manifold Pfal, 104. 24 are thy works! in wifdom hast thou made them all. The day is thine, the night also is Pfal. 74. 16. thine: thou hast prepared the light and the Sun. We thy creatures, a small part of mankind, prostrate our selves before thee this evening, in the humblest adoration of thy Divine Majesty: praising thy incomprehensible perfections, and rendring Thee our thanks for all the benefits thou hast bestowed on the whole world, especially on us whom thou hast called to the knowledge of thy grace in Christ Jesus. It is a marvellous love wherewith thou hast loved us. Thou hast not dealt fo with all People; and as for thy great and precious promises they have not known them. We are bound therefore more particularly to offer up unto thee continually spiritual facrifices by Christ Jesus; and to laud and bless thy great and glorious Name in the behalf of our selves, and the rest of mankind: among whom thou hast lest innumerable testimonies of thy careful pro-

vidence, in that thou dost them good, and givest them

Rain from Heaven, and fruitful seafons, filling their hearts with food and gladness. We praise thee, we bless thee, we magnifie and extol thy wise and powerful goodness, we thank thee for thy never ceasing bounty towards us; especially that thou hast vouchsafed to fend Jesus Christ to restore us by his appearing among us, and his humbling himself to the death for us, and his glorious Resurrection from the Grave and Ascension on high, to a blessed hope of thy mercy unto eternal life.

We can do no less than devote our felves, souls and bodies, eternally to

thee:

thee: returning, what we have re-ceived from thee, back again with the greatest love, and most grateful acknowledgements. Accept, we pray thee, O most gracious and merciful Father, of this small oblation we make thee, of our most hearty and unfeigned resolutions to worship and ferve thee, in the constant exercise of righteousness, mercy, meekness, patience, humility and purity, with whatfoever is lovely and of good report. And we humbly beg thy holy Spirit may constantly accompany us; enabling us to think of these things, to cleave unto them, to delight in them, and to persevere in a free and willing performance of all our duty towards Thee, and towards all Men, to our lives end.

And we most heartily desire the rest of mankind may at last be so happy as to come acquainted with the exceeding riches of thy grace in Christ. O that thy way

may be known upon earth,

Pfal. 67. 2.

and thy saving health a-Rom. 15.10,6. mong all Nations: that all the Gentiles may rejoyce with thy People, and we may with one mind and one mouth glorifie thee our God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
O that all Idolatry and ungodlines, all cruelty and filthiness, all rapine and violence, may be abolified and rooted out of the earth; and true piety, righteousness, holiness, and brotherly kindness may flourish in the room thereof. For which end we befeech thee endue all Kings and Princes, especially those that are Christian, with a great sense of thy Sovereign Authority over all; that they may humbly obey thee, as they desire others should obey them; and govern all their People with great wisdom, uprightness, and a tender compassionate care of their welfare. O that no covetousness, ambition, or revenge may rule in any hearts, provoking them to war and bloud-shed: but there may be great

great peace in all Lands, by observing the holy Laws of the Prince of peace,

Christ Jesus.

More particularly we recommend unto thy bleffing, these Kingdoms wherein we live: befeeching thee to be merciful to our fins, in giving us grace to repent of them, and to bring forth fruits meet for repen-tance and amendment of life. Bless our Sovereign, and all that are employed under him, either in Spiritual or Civil affairs, with all those graces which are necessary for the right discharge of their duties in such high places. Prosper all their pious endeavours for the good either of mens fouls, or outward estates; that true Religion and Vertue encreasing, and all ungodliness and vice being put to shame, we may become a renowned Nation, and a praise in the Earth. We commend to thee alfo, O Father of mercies, all those who are in a diffressed and forrowful condition: most earnestly desiring their feafon-

feafonable relief and comfort; with their release from those troubles,

when thou pleasest.

And now that we are going to lay down our felves to fleep, we put our felves and our habitations, with all that belong unto us, into thy most gracious protection: hopeing thou wilt take care of us, when we cannot fo much as think how to fecure our felves from any danger that may approach us. Thou hast been our Helper, Keeper, and Defender, therefore under the shadow of thy Wings will we still rejoyce.

When we close our Eyes, let these holy thoughts of thee, and affections towards thee, still remain in us, and possess our hearts; that they may awake again with us in the morning, and fend up our fouls in renewed love, and thanks, and praise to thy Divine Majesty by our bleffed Saviour and Redeemer Christ Jesus. In whose words we

continue

Saturday. Prayers for Families. 125 continue to implore thy mercies towards us.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, &c:



PRAYERS

FOR FAMILIES.

SATURDAT

MORNING.

Lord; all thy works praise thee, and declare the greatness of thy Majesty, Power, Wildom and Bounty which surpass all understanding. Thou art good unto all, and thy tender mercies are over all thy works. Thou art holy in all thy ways, and righteous in all thy doings: and keepest truth for ever. Thy Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. We all decay and perish; the heavens themselves wax old like a garment: but thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.

We adore thee, O Lord most high, G 4 and

128 Prayers for Families. Saturday.

and most willingly joyn our hearts and voices this Morning, together with all the host of heaven and earth, to laud and praise thy glorious Name; and give thanks unto thee, whose mercy endureth for ever. We think our selves happy that we know thee; and that we live under the care and providence of thine Almighty and most wise goodness; and that we have a good hope, not only of thy blessing and favour here, but of life for evermore.

Blessed be thy Name for sending thy Son Jesus, to give us these hopes, by his Death, and Resurrection, and Ascension to Heaven, and the coming of the Holy Ghost. Blessed be thy Name who hast trained us up in his Religion, and given us the means and opportunities to know that love of thine which passes knowledge. We thank thee for all the blessed operations and motions of thy holy Spirit in our hearts: and that thou hast so early enclined us to fear thee, and love thee,

Saturday. Prayers for Families. 129 thee, and place our contentment and fatisfaction in thy love and favour, which is better than life it felf. And that thou haft also added a number of other mercies, for our comfortable fublistence in this World: having granted us folong health, peace and plenty; a great many friends, loving relations and acquaintance; and continued the enjoyment of them to this day, though we be fo unworthy of the least of thy favours. We thank thee, O God, that now thou haft graciously renewed thy kindness unto us, in protecting us the last night from all the powers of darkness, and every evil accident; and raising us up this morning in health and fafety to praise thy goodness.

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More especially we praise thee for any sense we have of these thy mercies: humbly waiting on thee for the increase of it, and for thy gracious pardon of all our unthankfulness and undutiful behaviour towards thee; which we most heartily bewail, and

G 5 desire,

130 Prayers for Families. Saturday.

defire, and will endeavour to amend. And for that end we implore the help of thy holy Spirit, which our Lord hath encouraged us to ask of thee; and told us thou wilt not deny to those that earnestly seek it, and continue to knock importunately at the gate of Mercy for it. We believe all his promises to be faithful and true; and therefore humbly depend on thy mighty Power to strengthen and enable us to do our duty towards thee, and towards all men; with care, and diligence, and zeal, and perseverance to the end. Endue us, good Lord, with a spirit of true and fervent devotion to thee our Creator and Redeemer: with upright, just and charitable hearts to all our Neighbours: and with temperate, contented and humble minds, in every condition and state of life, unto which thou shalt please to call us.

Help us to be meek and gentle in our conversation; prudent and discreet in ordering all our affairs; good

and,

Saturday. Prayers for Families. 131 and useful in every relation; observant of thy fatherly providence in every thing that befalls us; grateful for thy benefits; patient under thy chastisements; and readily disposed to every good word and work. Preserve in us a constant remembrance of thine all-seeing eye; of the many promises and vows we have made of fidelity to thee; of thine inestimable love in Christ Jesus, whereof thou hast given us so many pledges; and of the great account we must give to him, the Judge of all, at the day of his appearing: That so we may continue stedfast and unmovable, and be abundant in the work of the Lord; knowing that our labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

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Deliver us, we befeech thee, from all inordinate cares and defires; from vain hopes and causless fears; and so dispose our hearts, that death it self may not be dreadful to us: but we may welcome it with a chearful countenance, when and how soever it shall approach.

132 Prayers for Families. Saturday.

O that our hearts may be so firmly fetled and established in the true Religion, and our minds kept so free from all delusions; that nothing may affright us, or shake our constancy: But we may rather chuse to die, than dishonour our Saviour who died for us. We refign our felves to thy wifdom and goodness, who knowest what is best for us: hoping thou wilt never suffer us to be tempt-1 Cor. 10. 13. ed above what we are able, and wilt with the temptation also make a way to escape, that we may be able to bear it.

We commend unto thee, likewise, all mankind, especially thy Church and chosen people: These Kingdoms more particularly, of which we are members; that we may be all faithful to our Lord Christ, and zealous of good works. Bless our Sovereign, his Counsellors, his Ministers, and all employed in publick business, whether Spiritual or Civil; that they may be conscientiously industrious, and what-

Saturday. Prayers for Families. 133 whatfoever they do may prosper for the good of all those who are committed to their charge. Be gracious to all our friends, and those who are dear unto us. Keep us all in thy fear, and love, and obedience while we live; and make us willing to die, and to be with Christ, which is best of all. Guide us, Good Lord, and govern us by the same spirit of wisdom and goodness, that we may be fo united to thee here, as not to be eternally separated, when thou art pleased to order our departure hence: But that we all at last may have an happy meeting in the other and better world; to dwell with thee in love and joy, that shall never die, through Christ Jesus our blessed Lord and Saviour, in whose words we still befeech thee to hear us.

Our Father, &c.

At Night.

LL honour and glory, thanks and praise, love and service be rendred by us and all other reasonable Creatures to thy great and glorious Majesty, O Lord; who hast brought us into the world; and preferved our life most tenderly to this moment; and made it easie and comfortable to us by more mercies than we can number. And to all the former haft added those of this day, which we have passed in peace, and health, and fafety; bleffed be thy never-ceasing goodness. Above all we acknowledge thy unconceivable love in Christ Jesus, by whom thou hast made a gracious provision for our Souls, and their everlasting happiness in the other world: Having sent him to us with the promises of eternal life; and to be the Way and Director to it; and given him to die, that he might feal his promises with his bloud; and raised

Saturday. Prayers for Families. 235, raised him again from the dead, that our faith and hope might be in thee, O God.

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Eye had not seen, nor Ear heard, neither did enter into the heart of man the things 1 Cor. 2. 9. which thou hast prepared for them that love thee. We love thee, O Lord, and give our selves, both souls and bodies to thee: most earnestly desiring to be inspired with such a sense of thy infinite goodness, that we may love thee more, and serve thee better; with all our heart, and with all our foul, and with all our frength.

We confess we have not walked worthy of the great benefits we have received; and therefore may justly fear thou shouldest with-hold thy tender mercies, and shut up thy loving kindness in displeasure. But the desires and holy resolutions thou hast wrought and continuest in our Souls, to amend and become still more fruitful in all good works, encourage us to hope in thee for pardon through the bloud

bloud of Jesus Christ; and for the assistance of thy holy Spirit, to enable us to accomplish that which we intend and purpose, to grow more and more in wisdom and knowledge, and in righteousness and true holiness.

O that this Image of thine may appear every day fairer and more beautiful before thee, and in the fight of all men! That so we may adorn the Religion we profess; and be a good Example unto others; and have a solid foundation of peace and comfort in our own hearts; and be able to hope in thee for thy future mercy in Christ Jesus, even unto eternal life.

We commend our felves to thy wonted grace; and in a fense of what thou hast done already for us, and what thou hast promised to do, depend on thy goodness for what thou seest profitable and conducing to our chiefest good: referring our selves wholly to thy wise will and pleasure; and resolved contentedly to submit

Saturday. Prayers for Families. 137

to thy appointments, thankfully to receive thy mercies, and to rest satisfied with our portion, whatsoever it be that thou orderest for us. Make us but stedsast in thy saith and love, unwearied in well doing, patient and constant under all sufferings, sull of a lively hope in thy mercy, and willing to die when and as thou pleasest;

and we have enough.

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In confidence that thou hearest us, and art every where, and never flumberest nor sleepest; we commit our felves to the custody of thy watchful providence this night: to be fecured & protected by thee, when we cannot at all attend to our own preservation. May it please thy goodness to give this whole family a comfortable reft and repose; to defend this habitation, and all about us from fire and fuch like fad accidents; to deliver us from the power of evil spirits, and of evil men; and to raise us in health and chearfulness to praise thee, and to glorifie thee, both in Soul and Body the next day. Then

138 Prayers for Families. Saturday.

Then will we fing of thy power, yea, we will fing aloud of thy mercy in the morning because thou hast been our defence, and our refuge at all times. Unto thee, 0 our strength, will we sing for God is our defence, and the God of our mercy.

We will praise the Lord

Pfal. 111.1: with our whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the Congregation. For it is a Pfal. 92.1, 2, good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto the Mame, O most high: to show forth hydrouing kindnessin the morning, and

shy faithfulness every night.

The earth is thine, and the fulness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein.

Let all the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. O that all the ends of the world would remember and turn unto the Lord;

Psal. 22. 27, and all the kindreds of the Nations worship before him. For the kingdom is the Lords; and

Saturday. Prayers for Lemilies. 139 and he is the Governour among the Nations. Blessespecially all Christian Kings and Princes; that it may be an abomination to them to Prov. 16. 12. commit mickedness; and their thrones may be established by righteousness. And encline the hearts of all those who have any authority in these Kingdoms to love and hold fast thy true Religion, and to live according to it; that by mercy and truth the Kinz may be preserved: and his Throne be uphold-Froy. 20. 28. 29.14. en by mercy. Let him faithfully judge the poor, that his throne may be established for ever.

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We heartily desire the ease, peace, and satisfaction of all those who are in pain, trouble and perplexity: and that all poor miserable people may find supply of their wants from thy bounty, and the charity of those on whom thou hast bestowed plenty and abundance. We humbly also wait for thy blessing upon all our Relations and Friends: trusting in thee for such

fuch a measure of health and all other good things as thou judgest useful for us; and especially that the Lord Jefus will deliver us from every evil work, and pre-

ferve as to his heavenly kingdom: To whom be glory for ever and ever.

Amen.

Our Father, &c.

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Asborter Morning Prayer for any Day in the Week, when there is not time, by reason of some extraordinary occasions, for the other.

Most great and glorious God, the Sovereign of the World: Upon whom we continually depend; to whom we owe all the love, the fervice, and the praise that we are able to render to all eternity. We adore thy infinite mercy, from whence we have received fo many bleffings for the comfort of this life; and by which we have a fure Hope of good things, in the life to come. Bleffed be thy goodness, which hath not fuffered us to wander without instruction, after the foolish desires of our own hearts: but hath clearly shown us where our happiness lies. We receive with all thankfulness those holy words, which teach us the bleffedness of poverty and contentedness of spirit; of meekness and humility

humility of mind; of hungering and thirsting after righteousness; of mercifulness and purity of heart; of peaceableness, and patient suffering, for doing the will of our Lord Christ.

O that we may have grace to labour always to be in the number of those blessed Souls, that never set their hearts on any thing so much, as these heavenly vertues! O that we may ever think and feel our felves happy, in the comfort of those great and precious promises, of being made the children of the highest, the Heirs of the Kingdom of Heaven, and at last of feeing thee our God. It fuffices, O Lord, that we have these glorious hopes hereafter: which make us believe, thou wilt not let us want what is necessary for us, whilst we continue here. We commend our felves, with an humble confidence, to thy watchful providence this day: befeeching thee to guide and affift us, that in all our defires, words and actions, we may keep our felves innocent, and undefiled

undefiled before thee; and be disposed to do all good, as we have opportu-

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And we heartily defire that all mankind may be filled with the fame devotion to thee: and especially that all Christian people may glorifie thy Name, and be joyful in thee. And the greater any are in Dignity and Power, raisetheir spirits to the greater pitch of Wildom, Mercy and Piety: That they may right those that fuffer wrong; and defend those that have no helper; and provide for the ease and comfort of all miserable creatures; to the utmost of their power. In this ardent charity we commit both fouls and bodies to thee; befeeching thee to increase our love to thee, and to all men, till we be fit to be translated to the region of love and joy, and perfect fatisfaction, through Christ Jesus: who hath taught us, when we pray, to fay

Our Father, &c.

Another Short Prayer for the Morn-ing.

Blessed God; be thou acknowledged, praised and loved by us, and all the Children of men; on whom thou pourest continually thy benefits. They are great and many: we know not the fum, nor understand the value of them. The Angels themfelves admired thy love to us in Christ Jesus; and are become ministring Spirits to them, who are Heirs of Salvation. We enjoy the continual fruits of thy watchful providence; which we have been kept in peace and safety the last night, and are raifed this morning in health and strength, both of body and mind: beholding all things belonging to us, just as we left them with thee, when we went to fleep.

Accept, we most humbly beseech thee, of this poor tribute of praise and thanks; together with the hear-

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ty oblation of our Souls and Bodies, which we here dedicate again to the fervice. Vouchfafe us the continued affiftance of the grace of the holy Spirit; to enable us to make good those vows that are upon us, of obediently keeping the holy will and commandments, and walking in the same all the days of our life. Pardon, good Lord, all our breaches of this Sacred Covenant. Deal not with us according to our sins, neither reward us after our iniquities: But in the multitude of the tender mercies pity our errors and wandrings; and help us against our infirmities.

Give us leave this day to put our felves into thy powerful protection, and to depend on thee for thy merciful guidance and affiftance; that we may be more faithful to thee in the discharge of our duties, and never swerve from the rules of Sobriety, Righteousness, Charity and Godliness. So shall we return with

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joyful hearts to praise thee in the Evening: and teach those who shall come after us, to continue thy praises in the next generation. Amen, for thy mercies sake in Christ Jesus; in whose words we present the earnest desires of our hearts, for our selves, and all our Brethren; saying,

Our Father, &c.

A short Prayer for the Evening, when there is not time for the longer.

O God; we thy creatures, who have tasted liberally of thy bounty many ways, and been blessed in our several employments, and mercifully preserved from several dangers this day, are here met to joyn together, in most hearty thanksgivings to thy Divine Majesty; which with one accord we offer up unto thee. It is the greatest happiness of all, we acknow-

knowledge, that we have any fense of thee in our minds; any love to thee in our hearts; any remembrance of thy benefits; any holy dispositions to obey thee; and any hopes that thou wilt pardon our sins, and make us

partakers of eternal life.

All that we defire of thee, O Lord, is the continuance & encrease of this happiness: that we may be possessed with a stronger sense of thy Majesty, thy Sovereign Power, thy unfearchable Wisdom, Goodness and Truth; and be filled with a more ardent love to thee, and to all righteoufness; and delight to do thy Will in every thing, and rejoyce in hope of thy immortal Glory. As for all the things of this life, in a grateful remembrance of thy many past mercies, we entirely trust thee for the time to come : referring our selves to thy Wisdom: and refolving to be content with that portion, which thy good providence is pleased to assign us. Help us but to be stedfast and unmoveable in the H 2 work work of our Lord, to bring forth all the fruits of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance; and we shall think our selves rich enough, and well provided for in every state and condition of life.

In these holy thoughts and desires we commend our selves to thy gracious protection this night; hoping to find them fresh and lively in our souls, when we awake in the Morning: and desiring withal the happiness of the rest of the world, that they may know thee, and acknowledge thee, and be guided unto, and walk in the way that leads to everlasting life through Christ Jesus our blessed Redeemer. In whose powerful name, and comprehensive words, we continue to pray as he hath taught us; saying,

Our Father, &c.

Another

Another for the Evening.

In an humble and thankful fense, O Lord of heaven and earth, of our entire dependence on thee, and of the duty we owe thee, and the many promises and vows wherein we stand engaged to thee, we fall down before thee, this Evening, and with all reverence worship thy divine Majesty: Giving thee the glory that is due unto thy Name, and acknowledging thy multiplied mercies to us, particularly those of this day; to the conclusion of which thou hast now safely brought us with new resolutions in our hearts to continue for ever in thy faith, and fear, and love, and obedience.

It is but just and reasonable, and we feel likewise, by daily experience, that it is our happiness, to keep thy Commandments; and to maintain chearful thoughts of thee, & an hearty friendship with thee, by complying in all things with thy Holy Will.

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O pardon our folly, most gracious God, in forsaking at any time that perfect Rule, to follow our own unruly desires. Pardon us, we befeech thee, for we know not how to pardon our selves such ingratitude to thee, and cruelty to our felves. It is the grief of our hearts, that we have, in the least offended thee; and our most earnest, unseigned desire to be preferved hereafter in an exact conformity to our Rule in every thing. Yea, we would delight to do thy will, O God, and take such a pleasure in all the acts of righteousness, mercy, meekness, and gentleness to our Neighbours; and in praising and acknowledging thee the God of all grace; and in living in an humble lense of thy bounty and our own undeservings, and in a temperate and thankful use of all thy bleffings; that we may have the continual feast of a good conscience, and the constant comfort & satisfaction of having thee always for our friend, and our gracious Father in Christ Jesus.

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O thou who art the Inspirer of fuch holy counsels, desires and purposes, keep them for ever in our Encourage, strengthen and hearts. increase them; that after the refreshment of a quiet sleep this night, we may feel them lively and powerful in the Morning: and with renewed joy we may still devote our felves to thy faithful fervice. O that our friends, and all thy people in every place, may partake of the same mercies we desire for our selves : and howsoever we are severed one from another in this world, grant us an happy meeting at the day of our Lord, in whose words we pray thee to hear us.

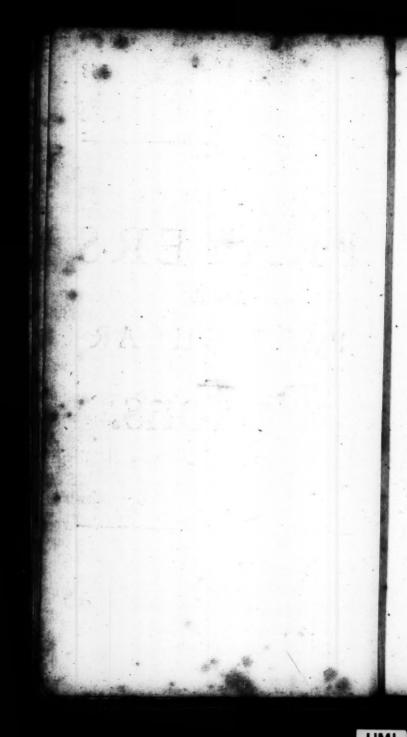
Our Father, &c.

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PRAYERS FOR PARTICULAR

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PRAYERS

For Particular

PERSONS.

A Prayer for the Morning to be said by any Person alone.

Most holy, blessed and glorious Majesty of Heaven and Earth. Who art before all things, because they all received their being from thee; and who art of thy self, infinite in all perfections. Before thee, who art so great and incomprehensible, I most humbly prostrate my self this Morning; rejoycing in this happy liberty which thou vouchfases me, of retiring my thoughts a little from this world, to look up unto thee, the Father of my being.

I adore and praise thy eternal Power, Wildom and Goodness. I hear-tily acknowledge the duty which

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I owe thee, both as I am thy creature, and as I am a Christian. I bewail all my neglects of it, my backwardness unto it, or coldness in it. I intreat thy gracious pardon, and en-gage my felf, for the time to come, more heartily and firmly to thy obedience: beseeching the grace of thy holy Spirit to enable me to perform all those engagements which are upon me. And bleffed be thy Fatherly goodness, which hath so often prevented me with that grace. I owe to it all the good thoughts and inclinations that are in my heart; all those motions that I feel in my foul towards thee, as my chiefest good; with all the effects and fruits of them in my life and actions: which encourage me to hope in thee for the confant help of it, to further me in well doing unto the end.

O thou who hast sent thy Son from Heaven to dwell among us, who hast not spared his Life, but given him up for us all, who hast

raised

raised him from the dead, and made him heir of all things, who hast gi-ven him all power in Heaven and Earth, that he may bless us and do' us good; deny not the defires of a foul, that offers up it felf entirely in fincere affection to thy fervice. But affift me so mightily from above, that I may make thee my constant acknowledgments likewife, for the fensible fruits of his Life, Death, Refurrection, and Exaltation produced in my heart: growing more and more in all Wisdom, Righteousness, Purity, Humility, Goodness, and every other Divine Virtue. For which end preserve me always in such a lerious temper of mind, that the fenfe of my duty to thee, may make me always ready and forward to it; and the fense of my weakness, may make me watchful and diligent; and the fense of my former negligence, ex-cite me to be fervent in spirit; and the goodness of thy commands may render me more fruitful and abundant

in the work of our Lord; and the great danger I have escaped, and the bleffedness before me, may provoke me to persevere most patiently in all well doing, with joy and thankful-ness. So that I may be like to Christ Jesus my gracious Lord and Master, and do him honour here in this world, and walk worthy of the great priviledges he hath bestowed on me, and make grateful returns for all the vast receipts I have had from thy most bounteous mercy. O that all my acknowledgments, and pious affections may be turned into actions of holiness and piety; and all my actions may be spirited with zeal; and all my seal be regulated with prudence; and my prudence be void of all guile, and joyned with perfect integrity of heart: that adorning my most holy faith and profession by a religious, upright, charitable and discreet conversation whilft I am here, I may reseive approbation and praise, at the day of the Lord Jesus; & be numbered among

among thy Saints in glory everlaft-

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This, O Lord, is the sum of all my desires. Dispose me, by every thing that befals me, for eternal life, and it sufficeth. I wholly leave my concerns in this life to the wisdom of thy goodness; that thou mayest order what thou judgest to be sittest for me. I trust thee with my self, and all I have: hoping thou wilt preserve me from all things hurtful, and lead me to all things profitable for my salvation.

The like I wish to all the world; that unbelievers may be translated out of the kingdom of darkness, into the Kingdom of thy dear Son; and they who are called by the name of Christ, may depart from all iniquity. Inspire all Kings and Princes of the Earth, especially our Sovereign; with great wisdom and charity; and make them like to thee, the Lord of all: who art good unto all, and pleased in mercy. Endue all our Pastors and

Guides.

Guides with true knowledge, piety and zeal; and give me, and all Christian people grace to receive their instructions with a meek, humble and obedient heart.

Thou knowest the sorrows, troubles and perplexities of all afflicted persons; for whom I implore thy compassionate relief. Support them with a lively faith and hope in thy precious promises; dispose them thereby to a more strict observance of thy holy Commands; and convert their present sufferings into endless joys; when they have brought forth the peaceable fruit of righteousness. And whilst thou art pleased to continue to me that ease, plenty and prosperity which I enjoy; fill me with fuch a fense of thy undeserved goodness, that I may be the more ready to do good to those, who are in misery; and by a fober and moderate use of thy blesfings, be prepared to endure patiently whatfoever change, thou shalt be pleased to order for me, into a worse condition. Preferve

Preserve me all this day in innocence, and in love to thee, and to all And fince in all Prov. 3.6. my ways I acknowledge Pfal. 112. 5. thee; do thou direct my paths, and teach me to guide my affairs with discretion. Thou art my hope and my confidence; my fatisfaction and my peace; my glory and my joy; therefore never leave me nor forfake me, but conduct me fafely by thy counsel through all the bufinesses and enjoyments, through all the temptations and troubles of this life, to that bleffed place where our Lord Jesus liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the same spirit, world without end. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

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A Prayer for the Evening.

O Lord, the Creator of the world, and the Redeemer of mankind. Who knowest all things, and canst do what thou pleasest; and wilt do that which is best for thy children; and haft done us a world of good already; and promised to do more for us, if we be obedient, than we can ask or think; and hast given us the greatest assurance of the truth of those promiles by thy Son Jesus; who died for us, and whom thou hast raised from the dead, and given him the promise of the Holy Ghost, which he hath poured forth abundantly, to shed abroad thy love in our hearts. I fall down before thee in the lowliest manner, to express my fear and reverence of thy Almighty Power; my admiration of and submission to thy unsearchable wisdom; my hearty love, and thankful acknowledgment of thy wondrous goodness; my trust and

and confidence in thy faithful Promifes; with my readiness, and sincere purposes to perform all obedience to

thy holy Commands.

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There is nothing, O'Lord, fo afflictive to me, as the remembrance that I have any time offended thy Sovereign Authority. I am heartily forry for the breaking of any of thy facred, righteous and good Laws. abhor the thoughts of doing so again. And protest eternal enmity to all that is contrary to thy bleffed Will: addicting my felf with most hearty affection to thy true and faithful fervice. Pardon me therefore most gracious and merciful Father, and accept thefe holy resolutions which thou hast inspired me withal. Strengthen, I befeech thee, and further them with thy continued grace, that no fudden defires, vehement inclinations, ineffectual purposes, no nor partial performances, may deceive and lead me into a false opinion of my self: but I may bring forth actually, and with a constant

constant spirit, all the fruits of righteousness, which are by Christ Jesus to the praise and glory of thee, my God. Possess me with such a deep and strong sense of thy Supreme Authority over all, of the obligations I have to thee, and the great kindness thou hast done me in engaging me to be thy servant; that Religion may be the very business of my life, and my greatest pleasure may be to please thee in every thing, and my highest design to attain that blessed immortality, which Christ Jesus hath promised.

O lift up my affections more and more to those things above, where he is: That Heaven may have my heart, while this world hath my body; and I may have perfect contentment of mind in well-doing and patient suffering; and the good hope I have of being eternally beloved of thee, the Lord of heaven and earth, may make me rejoyce evermore. Free me from all inordinate cares for the things

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things of this life; from all distrust of thy good providence; from all repining at any thing that befalls me: and enable me in every thing to give thanks; believing that all things are ordered by the greatest reason, and shall work together for good to those that love thee.

I doubt not of thy Fatherly affection to those that study, in all sincerity, to approve themselves unto Thee: and therefore still resolve to leave my felfentirely to thy wife Counfels, that thou maist dispose me into such a condition as thou feest best for me in this world. Remember me but of my duty; quicken and excite me to it; strengthen me in the doing of it; support me under all discouragements; advise me in all difficult cases; and comfort me with a stedfast belief of thy Holy Word; and I shall ever be giving thanks and praise unto thee, who dealest so bountifully with me.

Into thy hands I commend this night

night, both soul and body, which have been mercifully preserved in safety all this day. I repose my self in the belief of thy watchful providence; and that thou givest thy Angels charge of us, and art about our beds, and about our paths, and spiest out all our thoughts. O continue these holy thoughts and desires in me till I fall asleep: that thou maist have a soul full of love to thee in thy custody; and I may receive the light of the Morning, if thou prolongest my life, with new joy in thee, and thankful assection to thee.

I most heartily desire likewise, O merciful God, the good of the whole World. Pity the follies of mankind: deliver them from their sins, and from their miseries. Hear the groans of every part of the Creature, that is yet subject to the bondage of corruption, and bring them all into the glorious liberty of thy children. Hear the daily prayers of the Catholick Church. Free her from all soul and dividing

dividing errors: Let the truth, as it is in Jesius, prevail, and peace be in all her borders. O that all Christian Kings and Governours, may follow after peace and ensue it. Make thy Ministers the Messengers of peace: and dispose the hearts of all Christians to keep the Unity of the

Spirit in the bond of peace.

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Enlighten the minds of all Jews, Turks and Infidels with the knowledge of thy Truth. Give repentance unto finners, and increase of grace and strength to all thy faithful fervants. Reduce those that wander out of the way: raise up those who are fallen: confirm and fettle those that stand; and grant them a stedfast resolution to persevere in faith, love and obedience. Relieve and comfort all those that are in any distress. Make the earth to bring forth her increase in due season. And let all honest and industrious people be succeeded and bleffed in their labours.

Remember all those to whom I am indebted

indebted for my birth, education, inftruction or promotion: Thou who art rich in mercy, reward and recompencetheir care and love. Grant forgiveness and charity to all my enemies. Continue good will among all my kind Neighbours. Support the Sick in faith and patience. Affift those who are dying and leaving this World. Fit them for a better place; receive the Souls which thou haft redeemed with thy Sons most precious bloud, and fanctified by the Holy Ghost; and give us all a glorious refurrection and eternal life. Amen, Amen.

Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, &c.

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A shorter Prayer to be used by any one alone in the Morning.

T Adore thee, O Lord, the Poffessor of Heaven and Earth: who furpassest all our thoughts, and dost us good beyond all our defires. There is all reason that I should acknowledge thee continually ; that I should worship, and praise, and love, and obey thee, whilft I have my being. I cannot but witness against my self, whenfoever I neglect thee; much more when I oppose thy most high Authority, by doing contrary to thy Laws. For thy Almighty goodness gave me my being; and by that alone have I been maintained and liberally provided for: yea, it hath born with me very patiently in my rebellion, and used extraordinary means to make us friends, and ceases not its entreaties after many unkind denials; but continues to importune me, till my heart . consent to yield it self entirely to thee.

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I cannot with-hold my felf, O Lord, from thee, when I confider what thou art, and what thou hast been to me: such a tender, gracious and compassionate Father, as my greatest affections cannot find words to express. I must again surrender soul and body into thy hands, which have been so long, so lovingly stretched out towards me: resolving to stay with thee, and never to depart away from thee.

For the more I know of thee, the more I find that I must needs love thee: and the more I love thee, the more I desire to love thee, and to resemble thee, and to be beloved of thee. O that I may feel the power of thy love so great in my heart, that it may govern the rest of my passions and assections: and nothing in the World may tempt me to displease thee, but every thing provoke me more to love thee, and delight in thee, and obey thee. For whom is there in heaven that I can desire but thee,

thee, or on earth besides thee? who art the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and the Lord of lords; who only hast immortality: and designest by thy Son Jesus to raise us sinful dust and ashes, to a kingdom, glory, honour and immortality in the heavens.

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I most earnestly beseech thee that this fense of thee may accompany me wherefoever I go, and in whatfoever I do this day. That approving my felf to thee in fuch a godly, fober, righteous, charitable and prudent behaviour, as may adorn the Gospel of my Lord and Master Christ Jesus; I may have a greater assurance of thy good will towards me, and an undoubted hope of thy mercy in him to eternal life. In whose most blessed name and words I humbly recommend my felf, my friends, and all thy fervants to thy infinite charity; faying as he hath taught us.

Our Father, &c.

Another for the Evening.

Blessing, Glory, Honour, and Praise be again returned to thee, O Father of mercy, from a most thankful heart; which offers up it self also in holy devotion to thee. Who art my Sovereign Lord, my most loving Saviour, my Deliverer and Benefactor; the Fountain of all the good things I enjoy at present, and the hope of my foul for ever and ever. Bleffed be thy renewed kindness to me this day past; both to my selfand my relations, to my foul and my body, in my transactions with men, and in the liberty thou allowest me of addresses to thy felf. Pardon, good Lord, whatfoever hath escaped me in thought, word, or deed, contrary to my duty: And accept of those fincere intentions, and unfeigned purposes, which were, and I hope shall always be, in my heart to study to approve my self to thee in all well doing.

It is but just and reasonable that I should follow thy will, and not my own: and in a grateful sense of what I have received from thee, I ought to be moved to employ all the powersof my foul and body for thee. But fuch is the goodness of thy will, that it is for my ease and pleasure, and greatest happiness, to be absolutely led and governed by it. I am fenfible, O Lord, how much I am indebted to thee for teaching me by Christ Jesus, and also strongly obliging me, to exercise my self to all godliness, purity, righteousness, humility, goodness, and truth. And accordingly I thank thee, above all things, for his holy instructions and example; for the hope thou hast given us by his bloud that thou wilt be fo merciful to our fins, as not to deny us the power of thy holy Spirit to enable us to follow him, and obey his commands; and for that exceeding great and precious promise which he hath given us of immortal life, to en-

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courage us to follow him willingly and chearfully, even to the death.

O that I may feel a lively and ftedfast faith in his Word, continually working with great power in my heart; exciting me to an unwearied diligence, and zeal, and love, and patient continuance in my duty towards thee, and towards all men: That fo my hope in thee may grow and increase, and I may joyfully ex-pect that hour which shall translate me hence to the eternal happiness of the other world. And during my stay here, I commend my felf to thy good providence, which hath hitherto been fo tender of me. I trust thee wholly with my felf, and all belonging to me: and am willing in every thing to be disposed of, as thou seeft good. This night I flee unto thy Almighty protection; hoping thou wilt keep me safely, and whether I awake in this or the other life, I shall still be praising thee; whose mercy endureth for ever, Amen; for Christ Jesus his sake; by whom

whom thou hast encouraged me to hope in thee, and taught me to callthee Father; saying,

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Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name: Thy Kingdom come: Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven: Give us this day our daily bread: And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, &c.

That

Hat time which is went to be spent in the Church, in talking or looking about, before Divine Service begin; may be better imployed in private Prayer, to dispose us to joyn with greater serioufn & in the Publick. And indeed our business being there with God alone, and that place being separated to his service only; the custom which now universally prevails, of entertaining discourse one with another, is very undecent (to say no worse) and ought to be reformed. We have other times and places enough to confer with our Neighbours; and therefore have no temptation to pervert the use of this: which is set apart for devout intercourse with God, and none else, by speaking to him in Prayer and Praises, and hearing him speak to us in his holy Word. It is fit to silence all other speech; and therefore here follow Jome helps for that purpose: which I hope all good Christians will endeavour to use or imitate; and not despise this loving admonition. Pri-

PRIVATE PRAYERS

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A short Prayer before Divine Service begins.

BEhold, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, a Soul prostrate before thee; desirous to be filled with such an awful sense of thy Divine Majefty, that no other thing may interpose it self, while I am in thy prefence. Fix my inconstant thoughts in a stedfast attention to thy most Holy Word. Inspire me with devout affections, when I fet forth thy praise, and render thanks for all thy benefits. And excite in me fuch fervent defires for all those things which I ask of thee; that I may feel my felf better disposed by these addresses to thee, to every Christian I 5 duty

duty the rest of this day; through Christ Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

Another.

IN an humble and thankful sense of 1 thine infinite goodness, which honoureth us so much as to speak to us, and gives us leave to speak to thee; I bow down my felf before thee, O most high and holy Lord, the Creator of the world, defiring my mind may be possessed with such great thoughts of thee, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, and who openest thy hand and fillest all things with good, that I may most reverently worship thee; and affectionately acknowledge thy bounty; and set my heart open to receive thy holy Word; and my mouth may praise thee with joyful lips. Silence all other thoughts and defires in me, while

while I am here in thy presence. And lift up my heart so towards heaven, that I may feel it united to that glorious company above; who perpetually praise thee, and rejoyce in thee, and do thy Commandments, hearkening to the voice of thy Word. Which I humbly beg in the name of Christ Jesus, which is ever dear unto thee; and by whom thou hast promised to hear us. Amen.

Or those words of the Prophet David (which you read, Psal. 5.7.17.1. 118.28.119.47, 48, &c.) may be a little altered in this manner:

IN the multitude of thy mercy I am come into thy house: and in thy sear will I worship toward thy holy place. Attend unto my cry, O Lord, and give ear unto my Prayer that go eth not out of seigned lips. Thou art my God, and I will praise thee; thou art my God, and I will exalt thee.

thee. And I will delight my felf in thy Commandments which I have loved. My hands also will I lift up to thy Commandments which I have loved: and I will meditate on thy statutes. Let thy tender mercies come also unto me, O Lord; even thy Salvation according to thy Word. Look upon me, and be merciful unto me, as thou usest to do to those that love thy Name. Order my steps in thy Word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. Amen.

A longer Prayer in the Church, when there is time for it, before the beginning of Divine Service.

I Cast down my self, O Lord, in an holy fear and humble adoration of thine incomprehensible Majety, who sillest heaven and earth; but delightest to make thy self more peculiarly present to those that acknowknowledge and praise thee, and are desirous to be filled with a constant sense of thee, and entire love to thee. Blessed be thy infinite goodness, which hath encouraged such wretches, as I am, by the declaration of thy good will to us in Christ Jesus, by thy most gracious invitations and precious promises, and by the long experience I have had of thy kindness, to approach unto thee, O Lord most High.

most High.

I accept most thankfully of this

freedom and liberty of access with confidence by the faith of Jesus; and am here to joyn with the rest of thy servants, in extolling and magnifying thy eternal Power, Wisdom and Goodness; in giving thanks to thee for thy innumerable blessings; in hearing thy most holy Word; and making our humble supplications, for the continuance of thy undeserved grace and favour towards us. Compose mine and every one of our thoughts, to the most silent admi-

ration

ration of thee: Strike our Spirits with a reverend apprehension of the surpassing greatness and glory of thy Majesty: Raise our affections to the highest pitch of love and gratitude to thee:bow our wills to the most chearful submission to all thy holy commands: & touch us with an unspeakable joy, when we read & hear thy exceeding great and precious promises.

Vouchsafe, most loving Father, the power of thy holy Spirit to attend upon me; to draw my mind from all other things, and to give me such a lively taste of the pleasures of thy house, as may make me ever delight to attend upon thee here, and walk with thee, in every other place, with a perfect heart. That so my own heart not condemning me, I may

have more and more confidence towards thee, that what soever I ask I shall receive of thee; because I keep thy Commandments, and do those things which are pleasing in thy sight, truly my sout waiteth upon thee; from

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thee cometh my falvation.

Hear my cry, O God, and
attendunto my prayer, for
the honour of our Lord Jesus, and
the love thou bearest to him; who
hath bid us ask, and we shall receive;
seek, and we shall find; knock and
it shall be opened unto us. Let it be
to thy servant, I most ardently beseech thee, according to his Word.
Amen.

Another more large.

O Lord of heaven and earth, who art infinite and incomprehenfible in thy being, eternal in thy duration, and unchangeable in thy Nature: who canst do what thou wilt; and delightest in doing us good. By thy Power I and all creatures were made; by thy Wisdom we are govern'd; by thy Goodness and Bounty we are provided for; under thy
Sove-

Sovereign Dominion we live; and unto thy Majesty we owe all reverence, service and faithful obedience. I adore and humbly worship thee. I acknowledge my felf bound by innumerable ties to fear thee, to love thee, to praise thee, and to serve thee with all my heart, and foul, and ftrength. Bleffed be thy Goodness that I have any hope thou wilt accept of fuch a worthless thing asmy love. Bleffed be thy Goodness. admire at the riches of thy Grace, that thou dost not reject all the fervice that I can tender thee. Nay, it is to be ascribed to this alone, that I am alive to worship thee, and have the doors of thy house stand open to me; and that I have any heart to en-ter into it, to offer up spiritual Sacrifices by Christ Jesus.

O God, I offer thee here my whole felf, which is all due to thee, because I received it all from thee: beseeching thee most earnestly to make me feel that I am not mine own any

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longer, but thine; by taking off my thoughts and affections from all other things at this present, and filling me with such a reverend apprehension of thee, such hearty devotion to thee, and heavenly joy in thee; that I may every day offer up my self to thee more holy and more pure, more meek and merciful, more humble and thankful, more chearfully disposed to every good work, and better prepared to bear a part in the praises and services of the glorious company above. A simple company

Thou knowest the weakness of our nature, how soon our thoughts are tired and apt to start aside when we direct them towards heaven: Vouchsafe me therefore the assistance of thy Holy Spirit to compose my mind to the most serious, the most earnest, the most devout and chearful attention, in all the parts of thy Divine Service. That I may have the liveliest sense of thy glorious perfections when I praise thee; and

the most delightful remembrance of thy Mercies, when I give thee thanks; and the most thirsty desires to be conformed to thy Will, and to feel more and more the influences of thy Grace, when I hear thy holy Word, and present my prayers and supplications before thee.

Accept, O bleffed God, of this good will and fincere affection that I have to thy fervice; though per-formed with broken and distracted thoughts, and with too great liftlessness and dulness of spirit. And help me continually to out-grow this weakness, and to present thee with an heart more quiet, calm and fit to receive thee; more perfect and entire in ardent love to thee; and more fetled and fixed in thee, as its chiefest joy and happiness. That so all the rest of the actions of my life may be a more constant and even performance of my duty, according to the com-mand and example of my bleffed Lord and Mafter Christ Jesus. In whose name

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name it is that I am bold to approach into thy presence: believing the Power and Authority thou hast given him over all, to bless us, and to do for us exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. By him be glory unto thee, O Father Almighty, in the Church, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

At the conclusion of Divine Service after these words, The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, &c.

Say, Amen, with the heartiest and most earnest affection. And add some such words as these.

B Leffed be thy name, O God, for the good hope which thy infinite charity hath given us; by thy great grace in Christ Jesus, and the plentiful communication of the Holy Ghost. O Let thy mercy be upon me according

according as I hope in thee. Preserve me alway in thy love, through that abundant grace in thy Son Christ, and the powerful presence of thy holy Spirit working in me mightily, this day and ever.

Or after The peace of God which paffeth all understanding, &c. you may say as the Apostle S. Paul, (2 Theff. 3. 16.) and the Pfalmift W. TIS. 12, 13, 18.

Tow the Lord of peace himself give The Lord be with us all. The Lord hath been mindful of us, he will bless us. He will blesthem that fear him, both small and great. And we will bless the Lord from this time forth, and for evermore. Amen.

A Short Prayer for the Lords Day, or any other, to be used at home before Morning Service.

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Lord, the Almighty Creator of the world, and the merciful Saviour of Mankind; who art above all our thoughts, and excelleft the praises of the highest Angels. Thou art greatly to be feared in the afsembly of thy Saints, and to be had in reverence of all those, that are about thee. I most humbly desire leave to joyn my felf with all those holy ones, to worship thy most glorious Majefly, to express the due sense I have of all thy benefits (by paying thee my most thankful acknowledgments for them) to make thee the best oblation I am able, and devote my felf entirely to thy obedience.

Since thou hast graciously inclined me to go into thy house, and there to fet forth thy praise, to declare thy loving kindness, to resign my self to

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thy Will, to recommend my self to thy Wisdom, to submit to thy Government, to approve the justice and goodness of all thy Laws, to profess that I am thy servant, to renounce all thy enemies, and to testifie my continued purpose to follow thee against all the temptations of the world, the sless and the Devil: be pleased, good Lord, to pardon all my former failings, and at this present to accept my holy intentions, and to inspire me from above, that I may chearfully perform all these acts of devotion to thy Divine Majesty.

And vouchfafe more fully to inform me in my duty, to correct and amend what is amifs in me, to encourage and strengthen my good resolutions, and to assist me in all well doing. Fill me with a great love to thee, and to my blessed Saviour; to thy holy Word, and to all holy Duties; to Christian people every where, and to all mankind. Perfect me in Wisdom, in Holiness, and in Goodness.

Goodness. By all thy instructions, by all thy mercies, by all thy chastisfements, and by all my prayers, praises and thanksgivings to thee, the Father of mercies; make me such as thou canst love, and delight in, and reward at the great day of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

A Short Prayer at home, after we are come from Church; before Dinner.

I Adore thee again, O Lord of Life and Glory; I acknowledge my dependence on Thee. I thank thee for thy mercies, which thou never ceasest to heap upon me. Accept, I beseech thee, of that dedication I have made of soul and body, with praises and thanksgivings, unto thee in the publick Congregation. Be merciful to all my sins: and endue me with the grace of thy Holy Spirit, to enable me to present my self, when

I appear again before thee, a more holy and devout Sacrifice unto thee; stedfastly resolved, and chearfully disposed, in every thing to be order-

ed by thy Will.

For which end be pleased to settle and root in my heart a stronger belief of thy holy Gospel, and to six my thoughts and affections upon that unseen happiness and bliss where our Saviour is: That nothing here below may either allure or affright me from my duty, nor ever make me remiss or negligent in it; but I may be zealous of good works, fervent in spirit serving my Lord, from whom I expect the reward of an immortal inheritance.

Preserve in me always a Religious sense of thee. And make me now so thankful and sober a partaker of the refreshments of my body, that they may not damp the devotion of my soul: But I may rather return to worship thee with greater chearfulness & gladness of heart, after thou hast added

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t - ded the good things of this world, to those of the other; according to thy abundant love in Christ Jefus. Amen.

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A Prayer in private before the Evening Service.

God who art rich in mercy to all that call upon thee, and half bid us pray without ceasing, and rejoyce evermore. In obedience to thy command, and encouraged by the goodness of thy Nature, thy gracious invitations, thy most precious promises, and the long experience that I and others have had of thy bounty, I am bold again to approach into thy presence; to renew my requests unto thee, to bless thy holy Name, to make profession of my love to thee, and readiness in all things to obey thee. Quicken my thoughts and affections, O Lord, to

a free and joyful attendance on thee in all holy duties: that no dulness nor weariness may seize upon my spirit; but such a fervent love to thee may possess my heart, as may render all the employments of Religion my delight, and the doing thy Will both now and alway my greatest pleafure.

And pass by, I most humbly befeech thee, all my unwilling indifpositions. Accept of such service as I am able to render thee. And dispose me by all my addresses to thee, to be more circumspect & watchful, more diligent and industrious, more forward and zealous in the performance of every part of my duty. That being led by thy Counsel, governed by thy Spirit, and preserved by thy gracious Providence, I may at last be admitted into the company of the bleffed; there to perfect my praises and acknowledgements, and to receive the reward of patient continuance in well doing, through Christ Tefus.

Jesus. Whose grace be with my spirit.

Another after the Evening Service is done, as soon as there is opportunity to retire alone.

T Acknowledge thy manifold blef-I fings, O Lord, which are renewed upon me every moment. I owe my life continually to thee, with all the comforts of it. If I had no more to thank thee for, but the mercies of this day, they are so many, so great, that I could never thank thee enough for them. Thou takest care of my body, and of my foul. Thou feedest meat thy house, and at my own. Thou lettest me taste the bread of Life which came down from Heaven, besides the many supports & refreshments which thou affordest for this natural life. Several of thy creatures lose their lives to preserve mine, and thy

thy dear Son hath not thought it too much to lay down his precious Life for my sake. Thou speakest to me, and givest me leave to speak to thee. Thou instructest me in my duty, and hast made those things my duty, which are really my happiness. Thou engagest me to do my self good here by promiting a greater good hereafter.

I praise thee; I thank thee; and will be ever speaking good of thee. And it is a new favour that I may thus praise and bless thee, both in the asfemblies of thy people, and in my own retirements. O give mean heart to delight in it, and in all other duties of a Christian life. That obeying thy holy Gospel in all things and being never weary in well doing, I may find thy unwearied goodness extending it self to immortal life and blisthrough Christ Jesus.
Oblessed Jesus that thy holy Laws

may be more deeply engraven on my heart! O that every truth I have

learnt

learnt this day, may be so faithfully preserved and kept in mind; as to become the rule of my life, or the ground of my hope, and a powerful motive to universal and uniform obedience to the end of my days! O that the remainder of my days may be the better for this day: and the holy rest we observe here on earth may be a beginning of the eternal rest which we wait for at thy second coming. Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

A Prayer upon any Festival in remembrance of our blessed Lord and Saviour to be added to the foregoing Devotions.

Most glorious God, the Father of of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of lights, from whom cometh every good, and James 1. 17. every perfect gift; with whom there is no variablenes, nor shadow of change.

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Thou always wast, and ever wilt be happy without us, or any of the praises that we or any other creatures are able to render unto thee. But it is our duty, our perfection, and high priviledge, constantly to acknowledge thee, with joy and exultation of spirit; in remembrance of thy infinite bounty to us and to all the world.

Every day tells us how good thou art, and every one of thy creatures calls upon us to magnifie thee, and love thee, and serve thee; who hast made so many of them to serve us. But this day gives us occasion to remember thy more special and extraordinary kindness to us the Children of men; which calls for our highest and most exalted praises, to be joyned with those of the blessed company above, who are never weary of giving honour, glory, blessing and thankfgiving to thee; not only in their own behalf, but even for thy goodness to us thy unworthy creatures.

O how great was that love, which

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in remembrance of our Saviour. 199

an Angel came to give notice of! and which a multitude of an heavenly host celebrated with songs of praise, when thou sentest thy dear Son in the likeness of finful flesh, and in the form of a servant, to minister to our necessities, to relieve our misery, and to be the way to everlasting life! O the riches of thy grace, that after mankind had forfeited all the rights of thy creatures, and had contemned and despitefully used many of thy messengers, thou wouldst in much mercy create us again unto good works, and for that end appear thy felf most gloriously among us, in the person of Jesus Christ!

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I thank thee, O Lord, that thoushaft assumed our Nature unto such a nearness to thee, as we are not able to understand. I thank thee for the gladitidings which Jesus hath brought us from heaven, that thou wilt be reconciled unto us, and admit us again into thy favour: and that he hath sulfilled all righteousness; and shown

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us in our likeness what thou art, and what thou wouldest have us to be. I thank thee for the redemption which he hath wrought for us by his bloud. And I rejoyce in the victory which he hath got over Hell and the Grave by his Refurrection from the dead; and in his glorious triumph, when he ascended up on high, and led captivity captive; and in his royal Power wherewith he was invested when he fate down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; and in those gifts which he received for men, even for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them.

Blessed be thy eternal goodness, which hath made him a most merciful and compassionate High Priest; and given us so great assurance that he is become the Author of eternal falvati-

on unto all them that obey him.

Bleffed be thy goodness, which hath fent the Holy Ghost; and continued to us a fuccession of Pastors and Teachers, to be the Guides of our

Souls,

in remembrance of our Saviour. 201

Souls, and to minister to us those pledges of thy love, which our Saviour hath left us, in the Communion

of his Body and Bloud.

O God, that my heart could afcend up to heaven in these devout meditations, and in ardent love to thee, who hast loved us in such a marvellous manner! O that it might never come down again to this world, but with desires left in it aspiring towards heaven! Touch my foul fo powerfully with a fense of these things, that with an hearty and zealous affection it may ever look towards thee, and towards my dear Lord and Saviour Christ Jesus. Ofix mine eyes on him, as he was here on earth, that I may learn of him, his humble and meek obedience to thy commands: and as he is now in heaven, that I may trust him for the performance of his precious promises, and patiently wait till he carry me to that glorious place where he is enthroned.

Since he appeared among us to de-

ftroy the works of the Devil, and died to redeem us from all fin, and rose again that he might bless us in turning every one of us from our iniquities, and is made Lord of all that he may govern us by his Laws, and reward and punish us according to our works; preserve in my mind, I beseech thee, a constant and lively sense of this great end of his whole undertaking for us. That he may see the fruit of the travel of his soul in me, and my whole life may be a serious study and endeavour to imitate him, by purifying my self, as he is pure.

O that thy fear and love, and an holy joy in thee, may preserve methisday, from abusing any of the good things which thou allowest me for the refreshment of my body. Give me such a savour and relish of thy Divine Truths revealed to us in the Gospel, that I may not glut my self with any sleshly enjoyments, as if I knew no pleasure more excellent. But raise up my mind by them to better

delights:

in remembrance of our Saviour. 203

lights: that I may enjoy them with thanksgiving to thee, with bowels of mercy to those who are in need, with a taste of spiritual and heavenly joys, and with hunger and thirst after the sulness and perfection of those joys, when our Lord Jesus shall come to show us his glory, and entertain us with eternal satisfaction in his incomprehensible love. Amen.

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PRAYER

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GOOD-FRIDAY

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MORNING.

O Most holy and eternally bleffed; the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom I am encouraged to come unto thee. And how shall I come, O Lord, but in the lowest prostrations of my soul and body; with mine eyes full of tears, and my heart full of grief and sorrow, because I have been so undutiful to thee, whose grace and mercy hath so exceedingly abounded towards us! When I cast mine eyes upon my Saviour, and upon my self, with the rest of the children of men, I am astonished

of Men and Angels.

For what were we that thou shouldest make thy dear Son a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, for
our sake? That he should become
poor and mean, not having where to
lay his head; and endure likewise
cruel mockings and buffettings; and
be spit upon and abused; yea, sorely wounded and bruised; and drink
that bitter cup, that vile and accurfed death of the cross, where he shed
his most precious bloud, and gave
himself a ransom for us?

of Lord, what was the whole race of mankind worth, that thou shouldest purchase them with so dear a price? and by the obedience of thy SonChrist Jesus unto the death, grant a pardon for their rebellion? and seal a new Covenant of Grace in his bloud? and by the same bloud consecrate him to be an High Priest with royal Power in the heavens, to give repentance

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and remission of sin; and all this, so freely, that we did not so much as desire it, nor did it enter into the heart of men to conceive, that thou shouldst be so gracious to them?

O bleffed God, how rich is thy goodness, that lets us withal enjoy a great plenty of worldly good things; much of that ease and pleasure which was denied our Saviour? and yet we are sinners, and he had no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: yea, we are ungrateful sinners, so far from being sensible as we ought of such infinite loving kindness; that we may justly sear lest this goodness of thine which was designed to save us, should through our unthankful ness and negligence, prove the occasion of our greater ruine.

I most heartily bewail, O most merciful Father, my snameful forget-fulness of so great benefits, or my cold and dull remembrance of them. I lament all the errors and miscarriages of my life, which are the more hei-

nous,

nous, I acknowledge after fuch a plain declaration of thy displeasure against fin, and of thy marvellous love to us finners. I am afflicted for the hardness and stupidity of my heart, which, alas! is oft-times little pierced and wounded when I reflect upon his forrow and pain, and anguish for the fake of finners: and for the liftlefness and backwardness of my will, to give up my felf absolutely to him, who so willingly gave himself an offering for our fins. I blush to remember how weak and short my thoughts have been; how transient and ineffectual my passion, when I have meditated on his bloudy death and fufferings And am confounded when I think how fuddenly I have started from those holy purposes and resolutions, which the fenfe of his love hath fometimes begot in my heart.

I cannot but accuse and condemn my self here in thy presence; but I likewise condemn every sinful desire that is still remaining in me, to die

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and be crucified together with him. I would have nothing contrary to thy Will, to have any power, or live any longer in me: and therefore here yield up my felf entirely into thy hands, to be conformed in all things to Christ Jesus who died for me. Fix my thoughts fo conflantly upon his dying love, and affect my heart fo mightily therewith, that I may chearfully undergo any pains to be made like unto him in his humility; in his obedience; in his refignation of himfelf to thy wife will and pleafure; in his patience; in his meekness, in his charity, and forgiveness of his enemies; in his willingness to quit all things for thy names fake, and to trust both foul and body with thee, in well doing and contented fuffering, whatfoever it be that thou requirest of me.

I desire not to live, O. Lord, but that I may live to him that died for me. I result no reproaches, no poverty, no pain or trouble, if thy will cannot other ways be accomplished

by

in Tesus.

I believe the vertue and power of his Sacrifice to be everlasting; and that when he had by himself purged our sins, he sate down on the right hand of the Majesty on high: and therefore I look for the constant assistance of thy good Spirit, which he hath bid me ask in his Name, to enable me to purishe my self, and to tread in the steps of his humble, meek and patient charity; that so I may be presented unblameable and unreproveable in thy sight at the day of his appearing.

Great is the wisdom of thy love wherein thy grace hath abounded towards us in Christ Jesus! Great are the encouragements which thou hast given us, by his laying down his life for us, that he might take it again and live for evermore! Great is the boldness that we have to enter into the

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holiest by the blond of Jesus; by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us through his flesh! Give me the grace, I beleech thee, wisely to consider and ponder the merciful design of thy Grace; to walk circumspectly and exactly, as the redeemed of the Lord, as an heir of his love, that hopes to see him in immortal glory. O that the comfort and joy of this hope, to see Jesus who was so fcorned and abused, sitting upon his throne, and triumphing over all his enemies, may so raise and enlarge my mind by the power of it, that I may overlook and despise all the petty temptations of this world: looking still stedfastly unto him, and following him with unmoveable resolution; till I come to possess that which I hope for, and rejoyce eternally in his love.

Hear me, O Father of Mercies, and deal graciously with me far beyond all my thoughts and desires, for his sake; who is the Author and the sinisher of our faith, who died once for

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us, and now lives for ever to make intercession on our behalf: By whom all honour, praise, thanksgiving, love and obedience be rendred to thee by me and by all mankind both now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer on Good-Friday in the Evening.

Most holy, most gracious, the only wise God, most blessed for ever. We cannot conceive the greatness of thy persections, nor is there any thing to which we can compare them. Thy holiness is more unspotted than the light of the Sun: Thy goodness spreads it self more largely than its beams: Thy Wisdom pierces into those secrets which are buried in darkness: and though all things alter and wax old, yet thou art the same unchangeable being, whose years have no end. How shall such a vile wretch

wretch as I am take the boldness to look towards thee, and speak unto thee, who art so great, so glorious, and dwellest in light not to be ap-

proached?

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Adored be thy wonderful love, who haft encouraged our approaches to thee, by humbling thy felf to look down upon us, and by appearing graciously to us in our own flesh. Bleffing, Honour, Glory and Praise be eternally ascribed unto thee, who didst not abhor us, and utterly cast us out of thy sight, when we had turned our backs upon thee; but sent thy only begotten Son into the world, to call us again unto thee, yea, besech us, and oblige us, by laying down his own life for us, to return unto thee and live.

No thought can comprehend the unsearchable riches of thy Grace manifested unto us in the Lord Jesus, who was pleased to be vilely entreated, and shamefully used, to suffer the reproach of the Cross, and to shed his dearest

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dearest bloud; that we might not fuffer the pain of eternal death, but be restored to the dignity of thy children, and advanced to honour, glory and immortality together with him. Thou hast found out a way to manifest thy most tender love to us, without the least suspicion of approving and loving our fins; and to preserve thy Sovereign Authority, without destroying those who were in rebellion against it. Thou hast ordered such a chastisement of our iniquities, as might fave and deliver us, who deserved to be punished: and so dispofed the means of our redemption, as to pardon and amend us, both at once.

O the wisdom of thy Love, which hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin, that we might be made the righteousness of thee our God in him! O the riches of thy Grace, which hath abounded to us in all wisdom and prudence!

Healing us by his stripes; and condemning sin in the flesh he

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flesh by his facrifice for sin; Rom. 8.3. and making him a curfe for us, that we might in-Gal. 3. 14. herit a bleffing, and receive the promise of the Spirit, through faith in him. I see, O Lord, how infinitely I am indebted to thee. behold the design of thy wise goodness in giving him for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purifie us to Tit. 2. 14. himself a peculiar people zealous of good works. I thank thee with all my foul, for his bearing our sins in 1 Pet. 2. his own body on the tree, that we being dead unto sin, should liveunto righteousness. There is nothing I can more defire than by doing righteousness, to become righ-1 John 3. teous even as he is righteous. Affist me, I beseech thee, to attain this end of his death and paffion, by the power of that holy Spirit which he hath thereby purchased for us, and hath likewise promised to us, and is able to bless us withal.

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I dread to think that his precious bloud should be lost and spilt in vain for me; that so great a price should be cast away, wherewith thou hast bought me, to glorifie thee with my body and spirit which are thine. O God preserve in me such a lively sense of his grief and forrow, of his pain and anguish; that I may bitterly hate the cause of all his torments, and look on every fin, as the most fearful curse Preserve in me a that can befal me. constant sense of the great value of my foul, for which he paid fo dearly: and a great esteem of that purity, righteoufness and goodness, for the restoring of which he made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was obedient to death, even the death of the Cross.

And especially raise me to a great height of love and gratitude to thee, and of hope and confidence in thy infinite mercies; of which we have such strong assurance, by his being delivered for our offences, and

raised

raised again for our justification. Make me more and more in love with that lowliness of mind, that tender and compassionate charity, that meekness, patience and forgiveness which shone in his sufferings. And subdue my will so perfectly; unto such an absolute, quiet and ready submission to thy holy Will in every thing; that my hope in thee may encrease exceedingly: and not only so, but I may also joy in thee my Rom. 5.11. God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Hear, Good Lord, the prayers of the whole Church, which thou hast purchased with thine own bloud. O that every member thereof may serve thee purely and orderly in the rank and condition wherein thou hast placed them, to their mutual benefit and comfort, and to the conviction of those who are enemies or strangers to the Name of the Lord Jesus; that they seeing our

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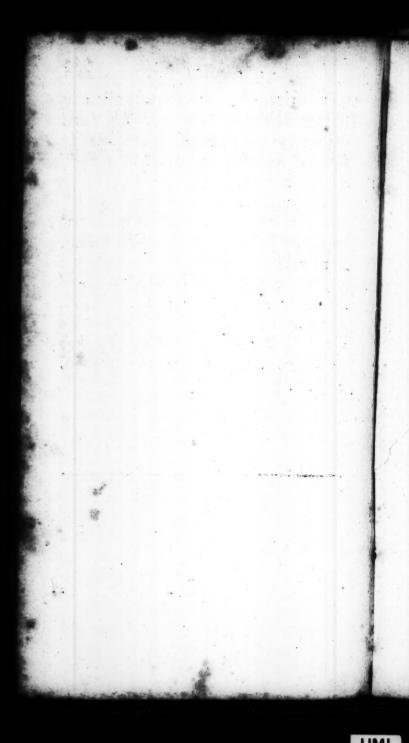
good works may glorifie thee our heavenly Father, and acknowledge that thou art among us of a Truth. Bless all the Ministers of Religion or Justice: and endue them with a great love to the honour of our Saviour, and with a great zeal to make his holy Laws understood and observed.

That as he gave himself Eph. 5. 26,27. for his Church, that he might sanctifie and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, and present it to himself a glorious Church, not having fot, or wrinkle, or any such thing: So all that name the name of Christ may depart from all iniquity, and endeavour to be holy and without blemish, and be found of him in peace at the day of his appearing. And in particular, I beseech thee to replenish our Sovereign with a great measure of the Grace of thy Holy Spirit; that he may make all his Subjects joyful by his pious and prudent care, to promote their wealth, peace and godliness. Let thy Priests also be clothed with

with righteousness; and all thy Saints shout aloud for joy. The Lord make them to encrease and abound in love one towards another, and towards all men; to the end he may establish their hearts unblameable in holiness, before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his Saints, I Thess. 3.12.

Now unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own bloud, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 1. 5, 6.



this

PRAYER

ON ANY SAINTS-DAY.

of Heaven and Earth, in all thy works of wonder, which declare the aftonishing greatness of thy Majesty, Power, Wisdom and Goodness, throughout the world. One generation praises thy works to another, and declares the mighty acts; especially the manifold wisdom of thy incomprehensible love in the salvation of mankind by Christ Jesus, who hath brought us the glad tidings of peace and reconciliation with thee, and the promise of immortal life and glory, if we will be obedient to thee.

An innumerable company of holy Souls have in all ages fince most thankfully received and acknowledged

L 3

this thy grace and tender mercy; being obedient to the very death, and leaving us an excellent example of pure love to thee, and conftant affection, and hearty devotion, and ardent zeal for the honour of our Lord and Master Christ Jesus. I add my poor tribute of praise and thanksgiving to all that hath been rendred unto thee, O God; who in the beginning commandeds the light to shine out of darkness, and hast now shone into the hearts of thy holy ones, to give the light of thy divine knowledge in the face of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to thy infinite goodness as for that glorious manifestation of thy self in our self, and the eternal redemption that the Lord Jesus obtained for us by his bloud, and the power and dominion which thou hast given him at thy right hand after his Resurrection from the dead, and his compassionate intercession on our behalf: So for all those gifts which he gave unto men; whereby he made

Some

Some Apostles, some Prophets, some Evangelists, some Pastors and Teachers, for the perfecting of the Saints, for the work of the ministry, and the edifying of his body. Bleffing, honour, glory and praise be to thee, O Father of mercies, for all those great instruments of the Holy Ghost, the illustrious Ministers of thy grace, the Ambaffadors for Chrift, and the bleffed Champions of his holy Truth, who have communicated the light of thy glorious Gospel to the world, and overcome the kingdom of darkness, by the bloud of the Lamb, Rev. 12. 14 and the word of their testimony, not loving their lives unto the death.

Adored be the mightiness of that Grace, which out of the mouths of babes and suck-lings ordained strength. Glory be to thee, O Christ, whose strength was made perfect in weakness. Glory be unto thee, who didst commit this heavenly trea-

L 4

Cure

fure unto earthen vessels;
2 Cor. 4.7.
2 Cor. 6.4,5. Who approved themselves
the ministers of God in
much patience, in affliction, in necessities, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tossings to and fro, in labours, in watchings, in fastings, that
the excellency of the power might be of
God and not of men.

I heartily submit to the power of that Divine Truth, for which they suffered the loss of all things,

phil. 3. 8. and counted them but dung that they might win Christ, and be found in him. And I rejoyce that thou hast had so many faithful servants who have loved thee, O Lord thou lover of souls, more than their own lives; most earnestly desiring to be inspired with the very same spirit which was in them, that I may leave some example, though never so small, of hearty and universal obedience, to those that shall come after.

Accept, good Lord, of my fincere resolution to be a follower of them e-

ven

in purenes, ven as they were of Christ, in knowledge, in long-suf-I Cor, 11.12 fering, in kindness, in love unfeigned: That my rejoycing may be this, the 2 Cor. 6. 6,7. testimony of my conscience, that in simplicity and god-2 Cor. 1.12. ly sincerity, not with flesh-2 Cor. 8. 217 ly wisdom, but by thy grace, I have had my conversati-2 Cor. 1. 53. on in the world; providing for honest things, not only in the sight of our Lord, but also in the fight of all Make me constant and couragious in the profession of thy holy Truth; and to be willing to pass

Stir me up, I beseech thee, and quicken me that I may shew the same diligence that thy Saints have done to the full assurance of hope unto the end; that I Heb. 6. 11, 12.

through honour or dishonour, through good report or evil report for the Lords sake; hoping that if the sufferings of Christ abound in me, my consolation also

L 5

may

may not be sothful, but Heb. 2. 3, 4,5. a follower of them who through faith and patience inherited the promises. How shall I escape if I neglect so great salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed by them that heard him, God also bearing them witness with signs and wonders, and with divers Miracles of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? O continue the mighty affiftance of that divine power with me, that behaving my felf fo holily, justly and unblameably as they 3 Theff. 2. 10. did, I may rest at last to-2. 1.7.9. gether with them, when our Lord Jesus Shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty Angels, to be glorified in his Saints, and admired in

all them that believe. And now preserve me this day from dishonouring that worthy name, whereby we are called; Thef.3.7,13. knowing how we ought to follow them, who behaved not themselves disorderly among those that

that believed. That by this rest from my ordinary labours, I may not learn idleness, nor grow weary of well doing; but be better disposed in my mind by all the refreshments of my body, to do my duty in the place and relations wherein thou hast set me, with greater chearfulness, fidelity and diligence to the end of my days. O that it may be my highest pleasure to attend on thee and praise thee in the assemblies. of thy Saints. Give me fuch a fenfible delight and joy in reading and meditating of thy holy Word, and in the remembrance of all thy mercies, that nothing in this world may make me forget the sweetness of it: but every thing may excite me more to praise, extol and magnifie thy loving kindness to me; and to express my thankfulness in a free and ready obcdience to thy commands; till I be made fit to be admitted into the company of the bleffed, there to praise thee world without end. Amen.

PRAYER

Upon the day of ones

BIRTH.

Most mighty Lord, the Former and Preserver of all things: All thy works praise thee, and declare thy infinite greatness, wisdom and bounty; and call upon us likewise to magnise thy Name with our continual praises and thanksgivings. I humbly bow my self before thy glorious Majesty who inhabitest eternity; acknowledging that it is but a little time since I was not; and that I am not gone down again into silence is to be ascribed only to thy Omnipotent goodness, which brought me into being, to praise thee among the rest of thy creatures.

I thank thee, O Lord, by whom I was fearfully and wonderfully made,

Pfal. 139. 141 my mothers womb. Thou art he that took me thence; thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mothers breast. By thee I have been holden up ever since; and most carefully provided

fince; and most carefully provided for, when I could not think at all of thy tender mercies towards me. And therefore now that I am grown to the use of my reason, my praise ought to be continually of thee. O bless the Lord,

Pfal. 103. 1,2. my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy Name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. While I live will I praise the Lord; I

while I have any being.

Pardon, I befeech thee, my ingratitude, in that I have no earlier remembred thee my Creator, in whom I live and move; and who givest me all things richly to enjoy. Accept of my unfeigned resolutions to preferve

ferve hereafter a more grateful sense of thy great goodness to me, and to glorisie thee with my body and with my spirit, which are thine. Vouchfase methe affistance of thy heavenly grace, that I may return them back unto thee pure and undefiled; full of wisdom and spiritual understanding; full of love and devout affection to thee; full of all good works and the fruits of righteousness, to which thou hast created me again by Christ Jesus, that I Ephes. 2.10. Should walk in them.

Bleffed be thy Name, who haft fent him to give me a new and better life. I thank thee for all the helps and comforts of his Religion. O that my heart may be possessed with such a strong belief of it, and such a sincere love to it, that I may feel indeed that I am born again, and made a new creature: meditating daily of thy mercies; breathing forth my soul to thee, in prayers, and praises, and thanksgivings; walking in the Spirit of good-

Ephes. 5.9. neß, righteousneß and truth; and proving what

is acceptable to our Lord.

All the thanks and fervices I acknowledge, that I am able to render to thee, are nothing worth: but the longer I live, I most earnestly desire the more hearty, and the purer they may be; and the more I may be enabled to do for thy honour and glory. If thou sufferest me to continue in this life another year, O that in the conclusion of it, I may present my felf unto thee again more improved in all that is praise-worthy. The time past is too much to have mif-spent; O that I may fuffer no more of my precious hours to run waste, but that they may all be taken up, and carefully laid out in well doing.

Help me diligently to husband so great a treasure, which thou entrustest me withal, and to employ it in order to a blessed Eternity. Let not the care of this world, and the

Mark 4. 19. deceitfulne sof riches, and

the

the lusts of other things entring in, choke those good seeds which thou hast sown in my heart, so that they become unfruitful: but enable me as I grow in years to increase also in love, joy, peace, long-suffering, faith, meek-Gal. 5. 21. neß, temperance, and all

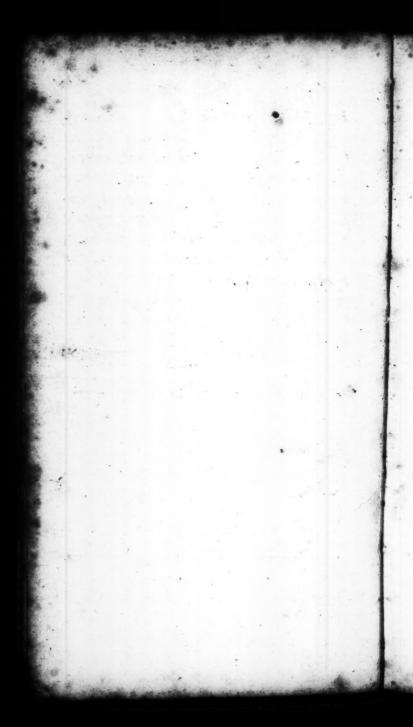
other fruits of thy holy Spirit.

And fince I have been thy care fo long, I will still hope in thee continually, that I shall yet praise thee more and more. Cast Pfal. 71. 14; Pfal. 9. 17. me not off if I live to the time of old age, forsake me not when my strength faileth. O God, thou hast taught me from my youth, and hitherto I have declared thy wondrous works. Hold me up still, and I Pfal. 119.1175 Shall be safe. Order my Steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me. That so if the evil days come, and the years draw nigh, when Ecclef. 13. 1. Ishall say, I have no pleafure in them; I may rejoyce in the remembrance of a well spent life, and, having having a good hope in thee, the day of my death, may be better than the day of my birth.

O that death may never furprize me, nor find me unprepared. Help me to walk alway fo circumfpectly, and to be so mindful of my latter end, that when death comes it may be no stranger to me; but I may entertain it as an acquaintance, and a friend: and with the same chearfulness put offmy body, and lay it down in the grave, that I put off my cloaths and lay my felf down in my bed. I commit my self entirely to thee, both now and ever; waiting for thy mercy in Christ Jesus, at that great Day, when thou shalt awake us out of the dust. O that I may then be numbered among the Just, and stand at the right hand of my Saviour, and hear that joyful voice, Come ye blef-Matth. 25.34. sed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. Amen.

Hat we may be stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, here follow particular Prayers for that grace; and, in case of any failing in our duty, for repentance, and pardon, and for an heart truly sensible of the divine goodness, and more considerate and careful for the time to come.

A



PRAYER

FOR

RESOLUTION

IN

WELL DOING.

of wisdom, power, strength, and all other perfections: from whose bounty I have formerly received, and at present enjoy innumerable bleffings; and have no hope for the future, but what arises from the same everlasting spring of all good which is never weary of deriving its benefits unto us. I ought in a sense of my entire dependence upon thee, to be very humble; very thankful; exceeding solicitous for thy favour, and desirous of thy good will; forrowful for

for my neglects of thee; ashamed of the pitiful returns I have made to thee; and most peremptorily resolved, and zealously bent to approve my self hereaster to thy Divine Ma-

jesty, in all well doing.

Accordingly I am now proftrate before thee, to implore the continued powerful presence of that infinite grace, to which I owe these holy thoughts that are in my mind, and by which alone I can hope to perform and accomplish them. Possess me, O God, with fuch a full and lively fenfe of thy undeferved and unwearied love and kindness to me, in passing by so much ingratitude, and so many transgressions; in laying on me such ftrong and manifold obligations to be happy by obeying thee, and in affording me such powerful assistances to attain that happiness; that I may love thee proportionably with a more constant and stedfast affection, and feel an unalterable will fetled in me, to do the duty thou requireft of me; into

into whatfoever state and condition of life thou shalt be pleased to dispose

me.

When we have loved thee all that we can, I am sensible we have loved thee but a little; because we, and all that we can do are so inconsiderable. How fmall a thing then is it, how poor & contemptible, that we return unto thee; when we love thee not fo much as we are able ! O bleffed God, cause such a delightful sense of thy goodness to fall upon my heart, and to abide with me, that all the powers of my foul may strain themselves to love thee, and unite themselves unto thee, in an unalterable choice of thy Will, to be the fole Governour of all my defigns, and defires, and actions throughout the whole course of my life. I love my felf most, I see, when I love thee entirely: and serve my felf, by doing thee all faithful fervice. In union with thee I am at rest & peace; and in constant adherence to thee confifts my erernal fafety and fecurity.

To thee therefore, with the deliberate and full consent of my will, I devote my felf; resolving to love and ferve thee, with all my heart, and with all my foul, and with all my ftrength. I vow unto thee, as I have done often, all fincere obedience; and protest against every thing that is contrary to thy holy commands, as contrary also to my own sense and judgment, to my most sober and serious thoughts, and to my most advifed counfels and resolutions. They all acknowledge how just and reasonable, how good and pleasant, how profitable and beneficial, how honourable and glorious it is to be a doer of thy Will, which, besides the pre-fent contentment and satisfaction of it, hath a great recompence of reward.

O preserve in my mind a constant remembrance, how dearly I am bought by the precious bloud of thy Son Christ; how early I was dedicated to thy service; how often I have since

for

fince found abundant cause to determine I would be thine; how I have condemned my self for the breach of those holy purposes, and what great satisfaction of mind I have had in the keeping of thy Commandments: That so I may never wilfully offend against so many forcible reasons obliging me to my duty; but be swayed by them, notwithstanding all the temptations of the world, the sless or the devil, to persevere in a resolved obedience to thee for ever.

And by the power of thy holy Spirit, I befeech thee to make them clearer, stronger and more effectual; that I may have the same thoughts, passions, inclinations and purposes now, which I shall be apt to have when I come to die. For which end, help me often to place my felf before thy Judgment-seat, and to consider that I must give an account for all that I have received; for thy holy Gospel; for thy divine inspirations, for the counfels and exhortations of thy Ministers,

for all the means and helps of growing better, and for all the encouragements I have even from the good things of this life, which thy bounty bestows upon me. That by a careful preparation for fuch a reckoning, I may be kept close and stedfast to my duty; in hope of that exceeding glorious reward, which our Lord will bestow upon all his faithful servants, at the day of his appearing. Amen.

Another to the same effect.

Most great and glorious Maje-fly of heaven and earth: who art of unspotted purity, and in whom there is not the least shadow of change. I know that all the refolutions of thy Wisdom are most just and equal; and I cannot chuse, when I am in my right mind, to be guided by any thing else but thy holy Will:who delignest, I fee, in all the revelations thou

Thou hast made of thy self to us, to make us like to thy own most blessed. Nature. I do here own and acknowledge most heartily the righteousness and goodness of all thy Laws; I admire the loveliness of thy Image, in wisdom, righteousness and true holiness; I loath my own deformity whist I am unlike to thee; I implore thy renewing grace as the greatest blessing I can receive from thee; and I bind my self to the faithful improvement of it, as the weightiest employment of my life.

I am abundantly satisfied in the declaration thou hast made of thy gracious purposes towards us. I renounce all thoughts and desires that are contrary thereunto; and resolve that holiness and eternal life shall be my design and study. I expect no partion, O my God, but in ways of sobriety, righteousness and godliness. Those for a blessed immortality, only by patient continuance in well doing. I consent to every part of thy

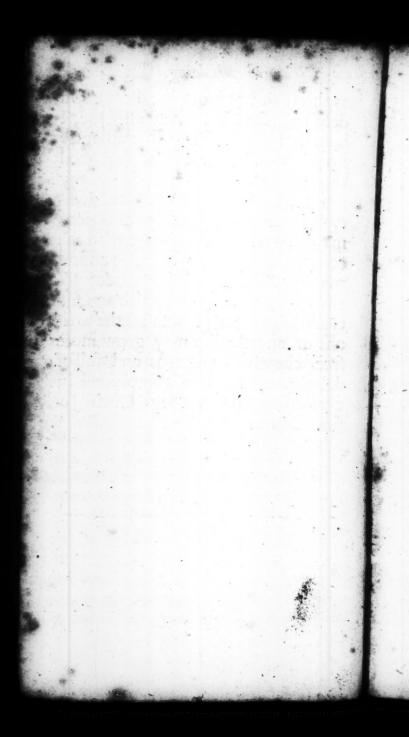
M 2

holy

holy Gospel: and add my testimony to the truth of its words, that none of thy commandments are grievous; but thy yoke is easie, and thy burden light. I hope, O Lord, by thy grace I shall never contradict my self, by disowning in my practice, these free and serious professions: But that I shall every day so call to mind my own protestations and resolutions, as to continue with an unwearied diligence in stedsaft obedience to thy commands, and to grow still stronger in the grace of the Lord Jesus.

O that every such address as this unto thy Divine Majesty, may leave a greater sense of thee, and of my duty, and of my happiness, and of my manifold obligations, and repeated promises, upon my heart. That I may always go out of thy presence with my mind more towards heaven; with lower thoughts of all the enjoyments of this life; with a greater relish of piety and holiness; and more passionate desires to become every way such

as thou canst approve, and love and delight in for ever. And assist me, I humbly beseech thee, so constantly from above, that whatsoever good thoughts are at any time in my mind, they may grow to fixed principles: and all heavenly assections may become a new nature, and the constant temper of my spirit: and all my purposes and resolutions may advance into a serious practice and exercise of godlines: and all the actions of an holy life may grow more free, chearful, vigorous and full of delight, till they be compleated in everlasting bliss, through Christ Jesus. Amen.



A

PRAYER

AFTER

RELAPSE

Into any

SIN.

I Cast down my self before thee, O most holy Lord of heaven and earth, with an humble, for rowful and penitent heart, adoring thy infinite grace which suffers such a vile and miserable sinner to approach into thy presence. I am thine indeed, dedicated long ago to thy service, which I have since chosen, as the most perfect freedom: But so much the greater reason I have to be abashed before thee, and to be associated at thy forbearing mercy; which prolongs the life of such an one as I am, who have M 4 been

been so false to thee, and to my own resolutions. I remember, in the bitterness of my foul, how many obligations thou hast laid upon me to obferve and obey thee; how often I have acknowledged the justice and goodness of thy Precepts; and how frequently I have promifed and vowed to conform my felf unto them; and what great and precious promifes thou hast made to me of invaluable bleffings: And yet, wretch that I am, I have been drawn aside from thy ways by easie and slight temptations; and for a small and momentary plea-* Here mention ture or gain, * have ven-the particular tured, the loss of thy fafin. your, which is better

than life it felf.

O God, that thou shouldst have patience with fo perfidious, fo ungrateful, fo senseless a creature as I am! That thou shouldst permit me to fee the light of the Sun, and hast not condemned me to utter darkness, in weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth!

teeth! but that thou givest me leave to look towards heaven, and that I have any heart to speak unto thee, and still may call thee Father, faying, Father, I have sinned against thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy fon; O the riches! O the unsearchable riches of thy grace! I cannever suffi-ciently admire thy exceeding great long-suffering towards me in Christ Jesus; nor sufficiently abhor and loath my felf for my foul revolt from thee, who art fo kind and gracious: especially if I should still continue to abuse such tender mercy and compasfion towards me. Tribulation and anguish, indignation and wrath, I acknowledge is the due portion of those that do evil : and if thou shouldst abandon me, and cast me out of thy fight, I must confess that thou art righteous, and that I reap but the fruit of my own ways, and fuffer the deserved punishment of my late iniquity.

But thou, O God, delightest in mer-M 5 cy, cy, and there is forgiveneß with thee, that thou mayest be feared. Thou hast fworn that thou de-

firest not the death of a sinner; but rather that he should return and live: And hast fent thy Son Jesus, with the most endearing arguments of the greatest love, to perswade us to return unto our duty. Behold, O Lord, I return, with grief and affliction of spirit that I have offended thee: detesting the thoughts of doing the like again, and refolving to be more careful and diligent, and circumspect for the time to come. O let me live to the praise of thy Omnipotent Grace, enabling me to perform these resolutions in a more strict and exact obedience to thy holy commands, the rest of my days.

Mercy, mercy, I most earnestly beg, O Father of mercies, for the sake of him that died for me; not merely for the pardon of my sins, but for a Divine Power to enable me to subdue

them

them. I desire not thy infinite goodness to bear me out in rebellion
against thy righteousness, purity and
truth; but that by thy goodness I
may be partaker of them; that my
repentance may be accepted; and
that it may be hearty and stedsast,
never to be repented of. I desire no
peace, quiet and ease in my heart, but
in a constant and resolute opposition
of all the temptations of the world,
the slesh and the devil; and in the
hope I have, that through thy gracious assistence it shall be victorious.

O fettle me, I befeech thee, in this holy disposition, that I may preserve an entire friendship with thee hereafter, by an happy agreement with thy will and pleasure in every thing. And for that end make me strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might: That being sensible of my own great weakness, I may more earnestly depend upon thy aid from above, by an humble and vigorous faith in thy Almighty

Almighty goodness. Maintain such a clear light in my mind, that may keep me from being deceived with the vain shadows and empty appearances of satisfactory pleasure in any thing of this world. Fortifie my will with the power of thy Divine love, that may overcome all fenfual affections that arise in me at any time against thy facred commands. And possess me with fuch a lively hope of those good things which Christ hath promised in the other life, that may make me active and zealous, stedfast and unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that my labour shall not be in vain in the Lord.

Thou knowest the secrets of all hearts; let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon me, according as I deliberately and sincerely chuse to cleave unto thee with purpose of heart. O Psal. 51. 9, 10, cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy boly Spirit from me. But hide thy

thy face from my sins; and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a constant spirit in me. Make my heart to be sound in thy Statutes, that

I may never be ashamed.

Pfal. 119. 80. Pfal.19.13,14.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: Then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. The words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart shall be accepted in thy sight, O Lord my strength, and my Redeemer. Amen, Amen.



THANKSGIVING

To the

DIVINE GOODNESS

For any hope of a

PARDON

After fuch

RELAPSE.

Eternally most blessed God, the Fountain of all good; from whence all creatures derive whatsoever they enjoy. They are all poor and indigent things, full of necessities and wants, which are continually supplied out of thy sulness. But the wants of our souls are the most lamentable: because, besides the poverty of creatures, we have made a great

great many needs to our felves by our wilful departure from thee, in whom we live, and move, and have our being. We stand in need of thy Pardon, of thy converting grace, and the greater supplies of thy holy Spirit: which we know not how with any confidence to expect, but that all these wants are not too big for thy infinite goodness to relieve; and that thou haft been pleased most compassionately to confider our miserable condition, in sending Christ Jesus into the world, and filling him with all the treasures of thy grace and mercy, that he might dispense them to us, according to our feveral necessities.

O how excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! How surpassing is thy love! that will pass by the insolent offences of thy creatures against thy high authority, and Sovereign goodness; and not let them eternally perish without a remedy, in that forlorn condition into which they have brought themselves! Blessed, for eur

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ver bleffed be thy sparing Mercy; which hath delivered Christ Jesus for our offences; and testified thy acceptance of his Sacrifice of himself; by raising him again for our justification. Bleffed be thy Name, for the gracious declaration which thou hast made, that if any man sin, 1 John 2, 1, 2; have an advocate with thee, Christ Jesus the righteous, who is the propitiation for our fins. I most thankfully receive these glad tidings, which are worthy of all acceptation, that Jesus Christ I Tim. 1. 153 came into the world to save sinners. Thanks be to thy tender mercy, which hath restored us to a possibility of recovering thy grace and favour. The smallest hope of it, I acknowledge, is more valuable than the greatest abundance of all the enjoyments and pleasures of this present life.

What praise therefore, what love, what obedience am I bound to render unto thee, who hast given me such

fuch a good hope of peace and reconciliation with thee; and thereby delivered me from the horrour of my own guilty mind, remembring that I have adventured to oppose my will to thine? I ought for ever, with the most zealous devotion of a grateful and obedient heart to admire and stand amazed at thy inconceiveable Grace, which will not strictly mark what is done amiss; but accept of our repentance and amendment, in flead of an entire and constant performance of our duty to thee. O the height, the depth, the length and the breadth of thy love in Christ Jesus! which is the satisfaction of our heart, and the joy of our lives; which would otherwife be intolerably grievous and burdensom to us, whilst we remember that we are finners.

Fill me, O Lord, with a most ardent love to thee, now that I here offer up my self, in truth and sincerity of heart, to be wholly disposed by thee. Behold, O Lord, my will

lies

lies at thy feet: I would have no will of my own; but defire only that thy will may be done. And fill me with an holy fear of thee, that thy indulgent mercy may not make me remifs, and negligent, and prefumptuous again to offend thee: But a perpetual fense of my new obligations to thee, in reviving my hopes, which I had forfeited, in thee, may render me more watchful, more diligent, more earnest and solicitous, more humble and distrustful of my felf, and more fervent to implore the powerful succours of thy divine Grace.

O that it may be as natural to me to pray to thee, as it is to breath. And thou who fillest the hungry with good things, pour into me life, and strength, and vigour; and in a constant dependence on thee, and an hearty endeavour to do thy will. Strengthen me with might by the sti

me with might, by thy spirit in the inner man: Ephes. 3.16.

That notwithstanding the strongest temptations wherewith I may be af-

faulted,

faulted, and notwithstanding the weakness and seebleness of my own spirit to resist them, I may persevere couragiously in well doing unto the end; and finish my course with joy; and lay my self down to rest in an holy hope, that I shall enter into a state of safety and security from all danger, and remain for ever in the joy of our Lord. Amen.

A Prayer for the Divine Grace.

Most blessed God, the high and mighty One, who inhabitest eternity; and art, what thou always wast, and even wilt be, the most perfect power, wisdom, goodness, and truth; the fountain of all the perfections that are in us. We ought to address our selves to thee in the greatest humility of spirit: having nothing to present thee withal which we can call our own; and being unable by

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all our righteousness to profit thee, who standest in need of none of thy creatures. But alas! O Lord, we have robbed thee of that which we have received from thee; and are so far from giving thee any thing of ours, that we have not returned to thee that which is thine.

O the miserable condition therefore into which we have brought our felves! who are not fo much as fit to. receive any more from thy divine bounty; and, which is worse, have been too unwilling to partake of thy favours! O thy infinite love in Christ Jesus, which hath bestowed the richest grace upon us, whether we would or no! Thou haft honoured our nature with thy divine presence, dwelling in it. Thou haft delivered him to die for our fins. Thou hast given us a bleffed hope in thee, by his Refurrection from the dead. Thou haft sent him to bless us, in turning every one of us Acts 3. 26. from our iniquities: And given him all

all power in heaven and earth; that he may succour and strengthen us when we are tempted, and enable us to overcome.

I thank thee with all my foul, for this abundant grace, fo freely and undefired, conferred upon us. Which encourages me to hope in thee, now that thou inclinest my heart towards thee, and hast given me a thankful sense of thy love, and some will to obey thee, and holy resolutions to cleave unto thee in well doing; that thou wilt not deny me the constant assistence of that good Spirit which our Saviour hath bid us ask of thee, to strengthen, confirm and settle what thou hast begun to do for me, in a perfect love, and stedsast obedience to all thy holy commands.

O God of all grace and might,

O God of all grace and might, the root of our life, and power and strength; without whom all good desires and purposes wither and die: withdraw not the sweet influences of thy holy Spirit from thy unworthy

·fervant,

fervant, who entirely confides in thee, and hath no hope but in thy infinite Mercies. Remember not against me former iniquities; let not my late back-sliding and return to folly cut me off from the communication of thy grace: which is wont to press into those souls that open themselves to receive it, and seriously thirst after it. My soul thirsteth for thee, O God; that I may be more firmly united to thee, and be made more exactly like thee, in unchangeable righteousness, purity and goodness.

Cherish and encrease the most faint

Cherish and encrease the most faint but sincere motions, which thou seest in me towards a more complete participation of thee. And especially preserve in me a full considence in thy Almighty Love, as ready to accomplish the desires and endeavours of all those, who yield up themselves unto it, in hearty willingness to be governed by it. That being born up by this strong hope in thee, my helper, and exceeding great reward, no tempta-

tion may be able to prevail over me: but I may walk stedsastly and evenly with thee, in all conditions and circumstances of life. Make me feel so much of the comfort of this faith and love, and hope, and obedience, reviving me to a delightful sense of a blessed immortality; that whatsoever allurements or discouragements I meet withal in this world, they may only provoke me to give a greater proof of all these in a constant adherence to my duty; and occasion the encrease of my unspeakable joy and satisfaction.

And enlarge my heart thereby to such a measure of Christian piety, that I may not only be innocent and harmless, but forward also to do good; and not only be contented with my portion, but rejoyce in our Lord alway: and rejoyce, not only to do thy will, but to suffer also for righteousness sake; knowing that great shall be my reward in heaven. Bless my endeavours to add to faith, vertue; and

and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience godlineß; and to godlineß, brotherly kindneß; and to brotherly kindneß, charity: That, doing these things, I may never fall; But an entrance may be ministred to me abundantly, into the everlasting king dom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Ashort Prayer when any man's occasions call him to a place where he fears danger.

Almighty God; who art every where, and more especially present to those souls that look up unto thee, with an high esteem of thy favour and grace, and with hearty desires to continue in thy love by patient continuance in well doing. In this humble faith in thy Divine good-

ness, and with a due fear and reverence of thy glorious Majesty, I profirate my soul and body before thee; to put my self into thy most gracious protection, and to beg the powerful assistance of thy holy Spirit, to preferve me wheresoever I am, in a dutiful observance of all thy holy commands.

I am sensible, O Lord, that we live in a world of temptations, and that our nature is weak, and ready to yield to them; and that our affections are apt to wander after vanity, and that sudden passions oftentimes transport us from our duty. But I know withal, that a sense of thy allfeeing eye, and of the life to come, and of the rewards and punishments which thou wilt render according to our works; will certainly overawe all finful motions in me, and break the force of the strongest temptations that affault me. And therefore, the greater the danger is, the more earnestly I sue unto thee, to be possessed with

with a piercing sense, and lively remembrance of these things, which may abide with me alway; and especially this day, in every place and company into which I shall come.

O that I may not be so forgetful of. thee, and of my own good, as for the fmall and momentany pleasures of this world, to hazard the loss of those great and eternal joys, which we expect in the other life. But enable me, O most gracious God, so to behave my felf, that when I have passed through all the employments and occasions of this day, I may bring my felf back again into thy presence, so pure and undefiled; that I may begin those joys that are to come, in chearful praises of thee; and in a comfortable sense that thou dwellest in me, and art leading me by thy holy Spirit to immortal happiness, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

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A Prayer for Serious and effectual consideration; the better to establish all good resolutions.

Most glorious Majesty of Heaven and Earth: who art above the highest of all our thoughts, and much more beyond all our words. But that thou art great and mighty, we know by thy works of wonder which we behold. And the admirable disposure and government of all things tell us, that thou art infinitely wife and knowest all things. We see how good thou art, by the large provision which thou hast made for all thy creatures, every where. Thy Precepts teach us how just and holy thouart; and by thy Promifes we know that thou art gracious and bountiful; and by thy threatnings that thou hatest iniquity; and by thy executing of both, that thou art faithful and true, and wilt fave the godly and punish evildoers.

When

When we consider all this, we may justly wonder at our felves, that we should not fear thee, and reverence thee, and love thee, and feek thy love and favour above all things; by studying to please thee in universal obedience to thy bleffed will; which defigns to employ thy Almighty Power to make us fo great, so happy, and fo glorious. And there is no other reason, I see, why we are no better affected towards thee, but because our thoughts are exceeding short, and light and vain; and we so feldom confider and deeply ponder, what, we confess, thou art, and in what relation we ftand to thy Divine Majesty.

Vouchsafe therefore, O God of all grace, to awaken my mind to a more lively and stedfast remembrance of thee, my Creator, my Redeemer, my daily Benefactor, and my most loving and tender hearted Father, in Christ Jesus. O that no day may pass without some serious and considerate

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thoughts

thoughts of those things, which so nearly concern my everlasting welfare. And by thy powerful presence with me, enlighten my mind to a clearer sense of them. Quicken and enliven that sense, I humbly beseech thee, and make it so strong and moving; that it may press upon my heart and affections, till it overcome me to surrender soul and body absorbed.

lutely unto thee.

Pardon all my former neglects of thee; and let them not hinder the influences of thy holy Spirit upon me, by which I may be changed into thy image and likeness. Sanctifie my understanding, that I may rightly conceive thy holy Truths, and fully apprehend them. Sanctifie my memory, that I may keep in mindall that I know of thee, and of thy bleffed will revealed to us in Christ Jesus. Sanctifie my will, that I may chearfully embrace, and entirely confent to thine, in all things. And fanctifie all my affections, that I may love thee

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thee with all my heart, and foul, and strength; and delight in thee more, than in all the contentments of this life; and hope more for thy glory, than all worldly preferments; and fear thee more than the greatest Potentate upon earth; and take more care for my foul and eternal things, than for this body and all its momentany pleasures; and hate all sin more rhan my greatest enemies; yea, help me to love mine enemies; to do good to them that do evil to me; to bless them that curse me, and pray for them that despightfully use me.

For which end, fanctifie all my Passions; that I may be angry at nothing so much, as that I have displeased thee; and in an holy indignation at my self, and in revenge of my former negligence and disobedience, may be more strict and severe in the performance of all my duty for the time to come. Sanctifie me throughout in body as well as spirit; that I may posses it in holiness and honour:

N 4

and all my senses may administer occasions to my mind, to remember thee, to praise thee, and to bless thee, who every way so liberally providest for me. Sanctifie all my conversation with others, and all the employments of this life; that I may still be heavenly minded, and have a respect to my last end, and everlasting good. Sanctifie all the blessings of health, and strength, and peace, and plenty, and friends: yea, and all the crosses and afflictions of this life; that they may make me more serious and considerate, and help more perfectly to purishe my spirit, and dispose me for the happiness of the other world.

Raise me, O Lord, to such an exceeding great delight in these holy thoughts and meditations; and entertain me with such a blissful sense of thee, when I address my self unto thee, that I may rather be unwilling to depart from thy presence, than weary of conversing with thee. And when I return to my other employ-

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ments again, O that my mind may be often looking back towards thee, my God, my exceeding joy; desirous to be always with thee, and longing to enjoy thee in unchangeable love and perfect likeness to thee: Unto which I most humbly beseech thee to bring me, for thy mercies sake declared in Christ Jesus, who lives for ever to make intercession for us. Amen.

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The better to preferve a constant fense of God in the mind, and pious dispositions in the Heart: Here follow certain short Ejaculations (as we are wont to call them) in which, upon several occasions, any man may lift up his soul to God: And if he do it fervently, may find it of great effect.

EJACULATIONS.

When he awakes in the Morning, he may fay.

I Laid me down and slept; I awaked, for the Lord sustained me, Psal.3.5.

How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God? how great is the sum of them? If I would count them; they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee, Psal. 139. 17, 18.

When he is dreffing himfelf.

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O how beautiful is the ornament of a pure, humble, meek, patient and charitable spirit! Help me, O God, to put on the Lord Jesus, in these and all other virtues.

When he goes into the Church, or his Closet.

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will fing and give praise, Psal. 57.7.

When he begins any business.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth, Pfal. 121.2.

The Lord Jesus Christ be with my spirit, 2 Tim. 4.22. When he goes forth of is doors.

Hold thou up my goings in thy paths, that my foot-steps slip not, Psal. 17. 5. Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me, 119.133. Give thy Angels charge over me, to keep me in all my ways, 91.11.

When he walks abroad, and beholds all things round about him, he may fay as it is *Pfal*. 104. 24.

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches, &c.

At Meals.

O taste and see that the Lord is good. He filleth our hearts with food and gladness, Psal. 24.8. Acts 14.17.

Bleffed be the Lord, who daily loadeth

us with his benefits, Pfal.68.19.

At

At Candle-light.

Lord lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us, Pfal.4.6. Or,

God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and cause his face to shine upon us, Psal.67.1.

When he goes to bed.

I will both lay me down in peace and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me

dwell in Safety, Psal.4.8.

He that keepeth me doth not sumber. The Lord is my keeper: The Lord is my defence, who neither sumbers, nor sleeps, Psal. 121.4,5.

In the Night-season.

O happy souls, that rest not day nor night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, which is, and is to come! Rev.4.8.

278 EJACULATIONS.

deth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee, Psal.

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139.12.

My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatnes; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night-watches. Because thou hast been my help; therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoyce, Psal. 63. 5, 6, 7.

On a fick-bed, or in other affliction.

It is the Lord, let him do what feemeth him good, 1 Sam. 3. 18.

It is good that a manshould both hope, and quietly wait for the salvation of the

Lord, Lam. 3. 26.

Bleffed be the Lord for my long continued health and all his other benefits. Let the remembrance of thy former mercies refresh my soul, and

then my patience, with quiet resignation of my self to thy good pleafure.

At the point of Death.

I have maited for thy Salvation, O

Lord, Gen. 49. 18.

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Into thy hand, O Father, I commend my felf, who breathedst into me the breath of Life. Lord Jesus receive my spirit, which thou hast redeemed by thy precious bloud, and fanctified by the Holy Ghost.

When he hears a Passing-bell.

Verily, every man at his best . State is

altogether vanity, Pfal. 39.5.

O teach me so to number my days, that I may apply my heart unto wisdom, Psal. 90.12.

In a time of Plague.

O Lord, correct us, but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring us to nothing, Jer. 10.24.

In a time of War.

O Lord, arife, help us and deliver

us for thy names fake.

From our enemies defend us, O Christ. Graciously look upon our affliction.

King Asacried unto God in this manner when he was going to give battel to a million of enemies.

Lord, it is nothing with thee to help whether with many, or with them that have no power. Help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on thee, and in thy name go against this multitude, 2 Chron.14.11.

ETACULATIONS. 281

In any other publick Calamity.

Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thy heritage to reproach, Joel 2.17.

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A great Offender may often fay with the Prodigal.

Father, I have sinned against thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. And with the Publican.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

After any mercy received.

What shall I render unto the Lord, for all the benefits that he hath done unto me? Psal. 116.12.

Every day will I give thanks unto thee, and praise thy name for ever and ever, Psal.145.1.

I shall mention no more, because I would not invite the Reader to make this fort of Prayer too common

282 EJACULATIONS.

mon. For by that means, it will be in danger to grow cold, and lose its force and efficacy, by growing fashionable. To that purpose I remember a devout Prelate of our own (Bishop Hall) somewhere delivers his judgment about this matter. But if any one find that he can with profit turn his thoughts this way, upon all occafions; he may eafily invent more Ejaculations. The measure of them is, (as that forenamed perfon fpeaks) to preserve our hearts in a constant, tender and godly disposition; which shall be further attuated upon all opportunities, by the exercise of our more enlarged and fixed devotions.

A Prayer for Submission to God, in case of any great loss in a man's Estate, Relations or Friends.

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Most Holy, holy, holy; the Supreme Lord and Governour of the world: who art unfearchable in thy Wisdom, unspotted in thy Juflice, and irrefiftible in thy Power: whose goodness hath no bounds, but what thy wife and holy will gives unto it; and art immutable in these and all other perfections, the great God, most blessed for ever. It is most reafonable and agreeable to our nature, most profitable and convenient to our interest, most satisfactory and suitable to our wifest choice, by an absolute and quiet submission in all things to thy Sovereign Wisdom, Justice and Goodness, to declare our fear and reverence of thee; our unfeigned love to thee, and defires to please thee; our trust and confidence in thee; and ready disposition to obey thee. Thou

Thou art too great, I know, to delight in grieving us thy poor creatures; and hast other ways of procuring thy own pleasure, than by our misery, pain and torment. And therefore, in a full perswasion of thy unerring providence over us, and infinite Charity towards us, I here most humbly and freely resign all my thoughts and defires unto thee: fubmitting my felf entirely to thy Orders, and refolving by thy gracious affistance to rest contented with whatfoever thou appointest. The Lord gave, and the Lord Job 1. 21. hath taken away; blessed be the Name of the Lord. Bleffed be thy name, who hast continued to me fo long, the enjoyment of fo many good things. Bleffed be thy name, that I had any thing to part withal, whereby I may testifie my faith in thee, and affection to thee. Bleffed be thy Name, that I have any of the comforts of this life still remaining, and that they are not all taken away from

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from me. I have nothing too great, or too dear to be refigned to thee: from whose bounty I received all I have; and who art my best, and my eternal friend.

O that no repining thoughts may arise in my heart, to disorder and discompose my duty towards thee, or towards my neighbour. But help me rather to think wherein I have offended thee, and carefully to amend it; to place my affections more stedfastly on those unmoveable things which are above; to lay up my treasure and hope in heaven; and to prepare my self, by perfecting my purity, and thankfulness, and patience, and all other virtues, to be translated thither, where our life is hid in thee with Christ Jesus.

I thank thee, O Father of Mercies, that thou hast given us such everlasting consolation, through thy Grace, in him. Every day will I bless thee, and I will praise thy name for ever and ever; for those exceeding great

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and precious promises which thou hast given us to support and comfort us, in all the troubles of this life. Increase my faith, strengthen and confirm my hope; lift up my spirit continually to that blessed place where Jesus is: that I may rejoyce in hope of that immortal life, when all tears shall be wiped from our eyes, and there shall be no sighing nor sorrow

* This clause to be be used only in the loss of Friends or Relations. any more; but we [*who are now parted afunder] shall meet together to acknowledge, with eternal praises, thy wise and

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merciful providence, which by ways most contrary to our desires hath brought us to endless and undisturb-

ed blis.

Thou knowest, O Lord the weakness and frailty of our nature, and therefore vouchsafe me the constant assistance of thy good Spirit, (for which I depend upon thee) to enable me to continue in this humble, quiet and dutiful submission to thee: waiting ou

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ing for that peaceable and joyful repose, in the eternal rest which thou hast prepared for thy People, through thy mercies in Christ Jesus: By whom all glory, honour, love and obedience be rendred to thee, by me and all mankind, both now and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer which a pious foul may use, that is full of doubts, and much troubled in mind.

Cord, the Father of mercies, and the Cord. 1. 3 God of all comfort. I acknowledge and adore thy eternal Power, Wisdom and Goodness. I render thee my most hearty thanks for all the benefits thou hast freely bestowed on me, from my first coming into the world until this time. Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts, which

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speak of them, they are more than can be
numbred. Above all I bless thee for
that great demonstration of thy love
and good will to Mankind by Christ

Jesus, whom thou hast sent into the
world to save sinners: and for bringing me to the clear knowledge of
him, faith in him, and some love, I
hope, towards him, and unfeigned
affection to thy holy will, declared to
us in his blessed Gospel.

O God, thou hast taught me from my youth up, and hitherto been marvellously gracious to me. Hide not, I beseech thee, thy face now from me; and put not thy servant away in displeasure. Thou hast been my help, leave me not; neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. But for Jesus Christ his sake, I humbly intreat thee to pardon and pass by all my neglects of thee, and unthankfulness to thee, and offences against thee.

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And as I here fincerely devote and dedicate my whole felf, foul and body, to thy fervice; so help me, O my God, and further me in the performance of my duty, by the grace of thy holy Spirit. To thee all hearts are open, and from thee no secrets are hid: deal with me according to the earnest desire and full purpose of my soul, to conform my self in all things to thy holy Will.

Settle in me an unmoveable faith in thy infinite Mercies, a constant love and chearful affection to my duty, and a readiness of heart to obey thee, and to submit to thy wise appointments in every condition. The whole earth is full of thy Mercy: thou openess thy hand and satisfiest the desire of every living thing: O refuse not the humble desires of my poor soul, which gaspeth after thee, even as the thirsty Land. Thou who givest to the Beast's their food, and to the young Rayens when they cry; O satisfie me early with thy Mercies, that I may rejoyce

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and be glad all my days. Compose my broken and disturbed thoughts, quiet my troubled and disordered spi rit; and appease all the ragings and tumults there, by a sweet sense of thy most tender mercies, which have been ever of old, and endure conti-

nually.

Banish from me all causless fears and jealousies; deliver me from all unprofitable fadness and dejections of spirit; keep me from rash judging of my felf, and much more from charging thee foolishly. Bestow upon me a chearful fpirit, by an humble hope in thee; and by referring my felf wholly to thee. Endue me with fuch wisdom and uprightness, that I may neither neglect my duty, nor fuspect thy gracious acceptance of me, Give me an hearty zeal to do the best that I am able; and a setled perswafion that thou requireft no more of me.

Defend me, O my gracious God, from dishonouring thee, and my Religion;

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ligion; by distrusting thy goodness, and calling thy loving kindness in question towards those that are sincerely bent to please thee. Remove all troublesome imaginations from me, and give me a clear understanding of thee, and of my felf. Or when I am in darkness and confusion of thoughts grant meso much light and judgment, as not to conclude my felf forfaken by thee, but to reflect upon thy long continued favours to me and many deliverances of me; that fo I may refolve still to hope in thee, to bear my present trouble patiently, and to refign my will absolutely to thy good pleasure. And, good Lord, enable me to look beyond these Clouds, to that bleffed state whither my Saviour is gone; in which there is no darkness at all: and in an humble hope of coming to the same place where he is, to content my felf with any condition whilst I am here, so far remote from that Region of light and glory. Hear

Hear me, most loving and mercialFather, I most humbly befeech thee. Pity my great dulness and deadness of heart. Strengthen my weak and feeble endeavours. Support my fainting spirit, and cause it humbly to hope in thee for ever. Confirm and establish every good thought, desire and purpose which thou hastwrought in me. Perfect that which thou haft begun. Make me to grow in wisdom, faith, love, and willing obedience Conduct me hereafter so evenly and steadily, so peaceably and quietly, so chearfully and securely in thy ways; that I may glorifie thee whilft I live by encouraging others to accompany me in thy service. And when I come to dye, may refign my foul unto thee with an undisturbed mind; and in an holy hope also of a joyful resurre ction of the body, at the great day of the Lord Jesus; to whom be glory and dominion for ever. Amen.

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A Prayer to be faid by others for one that is troubled in mind.

God, the only hope, the Refuge, the Comfort and satisfaction of our souls: Of whose Goodness and tender mercy all the world hath so many testimonies, and we our selves have had such long experience, that we are encouraged thereby, though most unworthy, to make this humble address to thy Divine Majesty.

Thou feest, we know, and pitiest the misery and torment of this afflicted spirit; none of his * Or her. * fighs or groanings are hid from thee: But to express also our charity and compassionate concernment for him, we are bold to recommend him to thy favour, as a great

object of the bowels of thy mercy, which are in Christ Jesus.

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We ought indeed, above all things, to admire thy most wife goodness, which hath set forth him Rom. 3. 25. to be a propitiation, through faith in his bloud; and invited even the greatest sinners to return unto thee and live. Bleffed, eternally bleffed, be thy great and glorious grace, which hath fent us fuch glad tidings of peace and reconciliation, and affured hope; that if we obediently believe thy Holy Gospel, thou wilt be merciful to Heb. 8, 12. our fins, and remember our iniquities no more. O Father of mercies, who openest the eyes of the blind, and raisest them Pfal. 146. 8. that are bowed down; open the eyes of this thy fervant, that he may see thy marvellous love revealed in Christ Jesus. Touch his spirit with such a powerful sense of it, that he may both heartily and absolutely consent to be governed by thy Laws, and likewise be revived with a comfortable belief of the truth

truth of all thy precious promifes.

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Free him from all confusion of thoughts, and bestow on him a clear and distinct apprehension of all things belonging to his peace. And as thou hast wrought in him a fear of thy Divine Majesty, and many holy desires after thee; and perswaded him, we hope, to be willing in all things to live godlily: So posses him with an humble belief that thou wilt always enable him to do accordingly; and never fail to strengthen him against all the power of the enemy, till he hath got the victory, and triumphs in hope of thy salvation.

Raise up his spirit, most mighty Lord, by the power of a most strong faith in thine Omnipotent Goodness: which delights to cherish the least gaspings and pantings in us after true righteousness. Bear him up by this above all the clouds wherein he is encompassed, into a clear heaven of light and joy. Quiet and appease all his tumultuous passions, that he may

filently listen to thy voice in thy holy

Gospel, saying; Come

unto me all ye that labour;

and are heavy laden, and I will give

you rest.

Thou who searchest the hearts, knowest that he unseignedly submits himself to the yoke of thy Laws. It is the present grief and affliction of his soul, that he is no more perfectly subject to it. O refresh him with the belief, that thou art more desirous than he, that there should be a perfect reconciliation of his very nature and disposition to thee: and that therefore thou wilt not deny him the affistance of thy mighty grace to help him to sulfil thy whole good will and pleasure.

O that he may take courage from this hope to begin to do thy will; and continuing in well doing, and growing more and more in strength and power to perform his duty, he may be delivered from all slavish fears, and jealousies, and distrust of thy divine

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goodness. Especially keep him from despair of thy mercy, as the greatest dishonour to thee, and to thy abundant grace in the Lord Jesus.

O thou who didst invite even those great sinners, who by wicked hands took and crucissed thy dear Son, to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins: lift up this dejected soul to an humble considence in thee, that thou wilt not de-

this dejected foul to an humble confidence in thee, that thou wilt not deny him the same mercy. And as thou hast sworn that thou hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that he should turn from his evil way and live: so be pleased, blessed God, to make him sensibly feel his soul is turning to thee; since he can find no comfort and satisfaction, but only in thy love and favour, which he esteems

And that he may obtain thy pardon, help him from his heart to forgive every one that hath trespassed against him. And if he have taken any thing Luk. 19. 8.

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better than life it felf.

from

from any man wrongfully, grant him grace to restore it to him: To give

Luk. 11.41.

Dan. 4.27.

almslikewise of such things
as he hath, and to break
off his sins by righteous-

refs, and his iniquities by shewing merey to the poor; that thou who art rich in mercy, mayest be favourable unto him, and he may see

Job 33. 26. thy face with joy.

Hear us, good Lord, and give every one of us grace to walk exactly, and to keep pure consciences, void of offence, towards thee, and towards all men; that so we may live and die in peace; looking for thy mercy in Christ Jesus unto eternal life. Amen.

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Another for a Person in the same con-

Lord, the Father of spirits, the Lover of our fouls: who are pleased best in our love and hearty affection to thee; and wouldft have us delight our felves in the thoughts of thee, and rejoyce continually in thy holy name. Give us leave to render our humble thanks to thy divine Majesty, for this knowledge which thou hast given us of thy bleffed Na ture; and in imitation of it; to recommend with most fervent charity, this defolate and afflicted foul to thy tender Mercies. He is filled with trembling thoughts and frightful apprehenfions of thee. The dread and terror of thy displeasure hath overwhelmed his spirit, He is troubled, and bowed down greatly; Pfal. 38. 6. he goeth mourning all the day long. O that thou wouldn'be pleased so to represent thy self unto him:

him, that he may be possessed with the same sense which thou hast wrought in our minds; that thou art Love, and defireft to be loved, and chearfully served by all that worship thee.

Thou hast graciously wrought in him already a fense of his duty towards thee. Great forrow overflows his Soul for his neglects of thee, and offences against thee. And out of this depth he fighs and groans and cries unto thee with earnest defires and purposes to live more holily for the time to come. Awaken his mind, good Lord, to very fensible and thankful reflections upon this grace which thou hast begun to shew him. Bless all the pious counsels and instructions which thou likewife vouchfafest unto him, to the encouraging of his hope in thee, that thou who haft begun a good work in him,

Philip. 1.6.

wilt perfect it even until the day of Jesus Christ.Reccluf. 2.18. member him that as thy

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Majesty is, so is thy mercy: and that thy power delights to shew it self in doing good unto thy creatures; especially to the humble, the thankful, and the willing persons who are ready to submit themselves to thy blessed Will.

O that this divine faith may banish all those fears that drive him from thee: and that he may rather fear lest he should offend thy Divine Majesty, by not confiding in those promises of mercy, which thou hast made in thy Holy Gospel to all returning sinners. O that all his thoughts and care hereafter may only be to make his purpose of pleasing thee in all things, serious, hearty and unseigned: believing that thou wilt graciously accept such holy resolutions, and certainly surther and succeed them as the effect of thine own inspirations.

Suffer not his spirit to be oppressed under the sense of his great weakness; or discouraged, though he fall short of his present holy desires, pur-

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poses and endeavours: but bear him up in a strong perswasion, that by fincere, constant and unwearied diligence in well doing, he shall at last obtain the victory; through the power of thy holy Spirit affifting of him. Make him fee how reasonable it is most gratefully to acknowledge thy infinite Mercies, if after much pains, many conflicts and long patience, he may recover a state of friendship with thee, That so he may not spend his time in dejected complaints, nor ever faint in his mind, or despond in the Christian course: but still pursue the compleat mastery over himself, in asfured hope that thou wilt be with him, and never leave him or forfake him.

We bless thee for that instance of thy exceeding grace to the chiefest of sinners, which thou gavest in thy holy Apostle of us Gentiles: Who was a blasphemer, and a perfection tor, and injurious; but for this cause obtained mercy, that in him.

him Christ Jesus might shew forth all long-suffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to

life everlasting.

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Above all we bless thee for our Lord Jefus himfelf, whom thou fentest in our flesh, that he might fave finners. We bless thee for all the miraculous cures which he wrought on miserable creatures, whereby he demonstrated his great charity towards. us: For the gracious proclamation he hath made of thy pardoning mer-cy: and for the universal invitation. which he hath given to every one, that is a-thirst to come and take the waters of life Rev. 23: 17

We thank thee for his death upon the Cross, that he might make a propitiation for the fins of the whole world: for his great love in praying then for his bitterest enemies, that they might be

1. Joh. 2. 2. Luk 23. 34.

Act. 5. 34.

2 Cor. 5. 18;

Match. 26. 28. Heb 7.25. Heb. 2.17:

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forgiven: for his refurrection and exaltation at thy right hand, to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance, and forgiveness of sins: And that he hath given to his Apostles, the Ministry of reconciliation; and admitted us into a Covenant of mercy and forgiveness, by Baptism into his Name; and hath left us the Cup of bleffing, which is the new Covenant in his Blood for the remission of sins; and given power and authority to his Ministers to absolve all those who heartily repent, and unfeignedly believe his holy Gospel. We thank thee, O Lord, for the affurance we have that he lives for ever to make intercefsion for us, and is able to save to the uttermost all those that come to thee by him: and that he is a merciful and faithful High-Priest, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people; being touched with a feeling of all our miferies.

We cannot doubt, O bleffed God,

of thy gracious intentions and defires to pardon us, and to make us better, when we feriously meditate on all these testimonies of thy Divine love; and on that easie and gentle yoke, which thou layest on us, to love thee with all our heart, and our neighbour as our selves: and on the promised assistance which we have hopes of from above, to inspire, enliven, and strengthen us, to all well doing,

and patient fuffering.

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O that this languishing Soul may likewise feel the comfortable influence of all these heavenly Truths reviving and chearing his spirit into a good hope in thee; that thou wilt mercifully accept the oblation which he is willing to make of himself to thee, and also constantly enable him to offer himself with greater affection and more pure devotion to thy service. Scatter all the clouds that darken his mind, and lift upon him the light of thy countenance. O give him the comfort of thy help again, and

and establish him with the Pfal. 51. 12. free spirit. Quicken him, O Lord, for thy Names 143. 11. sake: for thy righteous. 4. 7. ness sake bring his soul out 85. 6. of trouble. Put gladness into his heart, and revive 2 Theff. 1.11. him again; that he and Tim. 1. 14. we may rejoyce in thee. Amen; Amen, O God of all grace; fulfil in him all the good pleasure of thy goodness, and the work of faith with power: that the name of our Lord may be glorified in him; according to that grace which was exceeding abundant, with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus; To whom be glory and praise for

ever and ever. Amen.

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Hen sickness arrests any person, it is time for him prosection, the very beginning of it to search and try his ways; forrowfully to confest the sins of which he finds himself guilty, with a full purpose of amendment; to advise with his Spiritual Guide; and before his spirit be feeble and broken, to recommend himself heartily to our blesfed Saviour, by receiving the Communion of his Body and Blood; therein making a commemoration of his wonderful love, and devoting himfelf again to bis fervice: And having fet his House in order (as the Prophet Said to Hezekiah, Isa. 38. 1.) and setled his estate, to atknowledge GOD's great goodness to him hitherto, and to submit himsetf wholly to his good pleasure, in such manner as followeth.

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A Prayer in the beginning of a Sick-

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Lord, the Sovereign of the world; who doest what thou pleasest in Heaven and in Pfal. 135.6. earth; and delightest most in acts of bounty, as all thyworks every where declare; and art full of compassion and mercy, long-suffering and very pitiful, and forgivest sins, and savest in time of affliction. I acknowledge my felf among the rest of thy Creatures, to be most deeply indebted to thee: whose life thou hast prolonged to this time in much health, plenty and peace; together with the enjoyment of spiritual blessings in the Lord Jesus. I thank thee, and praise thee, all that is within me bleffes thy Holy Name: to whose wise and good Providence I wholly refer my felf for the time to come; placing my entire trust and confidence in thy Almighty Goodness,

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ness, Faithfulness and Truth, which endures for ever.

I ought to receive with all thankfulness whatsoever comes from thy hand; and believe that to be good for me, which thy Infinite Wildom and kindness orders and allots for my portion. Accordingly I accept with all humble and dutiful affection, this thy Fatherly chastisement. I acknowledge thy care of me, and fubmit to what thou wilt be pleased to lay upon If thou thinkest good to exercife me with a longer fickness, and to let the present indisposition of my body, proceed to a greater disorder; not my will, but thine, O heavenly Father, be done.

I only wait on thee for the comfortable presence of thy holy Spirit, to support my soul by faith, and hope, and patience, under all the pains I may endure. Lay no more upon me, O Father of mercies, than I shall be able to bear; and lay upon me what thou pleasest. Free me, for the pre-

fent,

fent from all murmuring and repining thoughts; and for the future, make the fickness and anguish of my body, a blessed instrument to purge my spirit more perfectly from all pride and vanity, from all covetousness and worldly-mindedness, and from all inordinate love of any of the pleasures of this life.

I believe, O bleffed Jesus, that thou livest for ever, who sufferedst and dyedst for us: and that thou hast agreat compassion towards those, who would gladly follow thee, though it be through sufferings. Behold, O Lord, I commend my self to thy mighty Love, desiring above all things to be made conformable to thee, in meekness, in humility, in patience, in entire resignation to God's holy will and pleasure, and in perfect satisfaction in his Fatherly love and kindness, whatsoever my condition be.

I am sensible, O God, that I have not employed my time to the utmost advantage of my soul, and to thy ho-

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nour and glory; but have wasted many precious hours, and several ways neglected my duty to-

wards thee *, and been but an unprofitable part of this world; fo that I

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o t * Here reckon up the fins you may have committed.

am not worthy to continue any longer in it. But I hope thou wilt vouchfafe me thy gracious pardon, and receive me to mercy, if thou callest me hence (for into thy hands, O Father, I commend my spirit, who hast redeemed me by the precious blood of Jesus Christ:) And that if thou prolongest my days on earth, I shall serve thee with greater diligence and strictness, and zeal, and chearfulness to the end of my life.

I desire not to live, but that I may perfect holiness in thy fear, and secure to my self, by doing more good, an happy entertainment into the society of the blessed, in the other world. I see already the emptiness and insufficiency of all enjoyments upon earth. All fless is grass, and all

the

the goodliness of it, as the dea Ifa. 40.7. flower of the field. The win Pfal. 119. 50. graß withereth, the flowe the

fadeth: But thy World standeth fast for ever. In thy won de therefore, O Lord, and gracious pro mises, is my hope. This is my comfor

in my affliction.

And my perfect contentment, I see, lies always in thy love and favour a lone, which is better than life it felf O fettle me in a certain and unmoveable possession of it, by what means thou pleasest. Do but love me, and preserve me in a lively sense of thy good-will towards me, and dispose of me as thou thinkest good. In the

multitude of my thoughts Pfal. 94, 19. within me, thy comforts

Rom. 5. 2. Shall delight my soul. 8. 28. will rejoyce even in the

midst of tribulations, and Pfal. 23. 3. glory in thy holy name, who

30. 10. makest all things work to-

gether for good to them that love thee. Though I walk through the shadow of

death

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as the death, I will fear no evil: for thou art The with me; thy power, and tender care, flower they shall comfort me.

Vor won Accept, Good Lord, of these my desires and resolutions. Hear me, O pro God, and have mercy upon me. Lord, for be thou my helper; for Christ Jesus his fake, my ever blessed Redeemer. A-

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IT will be feafonable here to put the A Devout Reader in mind, that when he is in distress, and desires Mercy of GOD; it ought to excite his charity to others that are in misery, and dispose him to shew mercy to them. For though that be not Canonical Scripture which we read, Tob. 12.9. Alms doth deliver from death; yet this is: With the merciful, GOD will shew him self merciful. (Pfal. 18. 25.) Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trou-(Psal. 41. 1, 2, 3.) If he do not preserve him and keep him alive; ye the Lord will strengthen him upon the Bed of languishing; he will make allhis bed in his sickness. Therefore as thou recommendest thy self to GOD, and defirest others to pray with thee, so remember that, Prayer is good with fasting, and alms, and righteousness, Tob. 12.8.

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A Prayer to be said by the Family, with the Sick person.

Lord, the Father of our spirits; who givest to us and all creatures, life and breath, and all things. We, finful dust and ashes, blush to lift up our eyes unto Heaven, when we consider our vast distance from thee; and reflect upon thy unspotted holiness, and our impurity; thy infinite wisdom, and our wretched folly; thy power, and our weakness; thy Eternity of life, and our short continuance. We are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because Job 8. 9. . our days upon earth are a Pfal. 39. 11. Chadow. When thou with rebukes dost correct man Job 25. 6. for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: Surely every man is vanity.

But so great is thy condescending grace, that thou hast assured us thou wilt not despise such Worms as we

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are.

Nay, thou hast encourage for us, bleffed be thy goodness, to ap us proach unto thee with fome confi dence, that thou wilt mercifully re not ceive us, though we have highly of fended thy Divine Majesty: Having fent thy dear Son into the World t fave finners; to purifie our natures to endue us with a divine understand ing; to strengthen our weakness; an to comfort us with the hope of an in mortal life.

Behold, O Lord, the oblation which we make to thee of most thankful hearts, devoted to thy fervice: who love and tender mercies have foe ceedingly abounded towards us. W will praise thee, and glorifie thee a long as we have any being, for this great falvation which Christ Jest hathbrought to light byhis refurred on from the dead to an Eternal King dom in the Heavens. We are humble bold to hope in thee, that thou wh

hast not spared thy om Rom. 8. 32. Son, but delivered him

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age for us all, wilt with him also, freely give ap us all things. O thou Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, who hast not thought a Crown of everlasting re. life and glory too much to promise us: we believe that thou wilt not deny us what is needful and fit for us, both d t for our fouls and our bodies, in our paffage through this world to that honour, glory and immortality.

In this confidence we more particularly recommend this thy fick fervant to thy infinite and most compasfionate mercy. Settle in

his * foul a stedfast faith, that thou dost not willingly grieve the children of men; but intendest good to him by this affliction. And now that other pleasures and enjoyments fail him, represent thy self effectually unto him, as his true happiness and fatisfaction. Wherein soever he hath neglected thee, or committed any offence against thee, make him deeply sensible of, and heartily forrowful for, his folly. And as he earnestly desires pardon and forgiveness of thee; so work in him a serious resolution to live more circumspectly and exactly in time to come. Assist him graciously, O Lord, that he may give a proof of his sincere intentions hereafter to submit himself in all things to thy will, by his patient submission to thy fatherly correction now. O that he may so quietly, so meekly, so humbly and chearfully resign his will unto thee, to suffer what thou inslictest; that he may be the more disposed readily to deny his own desires, in doing whatsoever thou commandest.

For which end make him throughly apprehensive of thy sovereign power and authority over all creatures. Possess him with a great reverence of thy wisdom and justice; with an entire considence in thy goodness and charity; and with a thankful remembrance of all thy past mercies to him, which have been innumerable. That so he may the better endure what thou layest upon him at present; and ever chuse

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chuse to follow thy directions, and submit to thy orders, and love thy commandments, and delight to do

thy will, O God.

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Bless and succeed those Remedies that are used, for the restoring him to his former health; that he may live to perform his holy purposes. Or if thou hast otherwise appointed, accept of them graciously; and dispose him to return back his spirit willingly unto thee who gavest it; and with great humility and deep sense of his own undefervings to expect thy mercy declared in Christ Jesus, who hath so highly merited of thee. Fix his mind stedfastly upon him, who hath led the way through the grave unto heaven: that he may not be affrighted with the approaches of death; but looking beyond it to that high and holy place where the Lord Jesus is, may rejoyce in hope of thy eternal glory.

And give every one of us in our best estate of health, to consider perpetually how frail and weak we are.

P 4 That

That fo we may not abuse our selves by an intemperate use of any of the pleasures of sense; nor load our minds with the cares of this life; nor spend our days in a vain pursuit of the honour and glory of this world: But may pass all the time of our sojourning here in fear;

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and live so foberly, righteously and godlily, in this present world, as becomes those who expect shortly to give an account to thee, who wilt judge all Men according to their works. Hear us, O Lord, we most humbly beseech thee, through Christ Jesus our merciful and compassionate High-Priest; who sits at thy right hand, and lives for ever to make Intercession for us. In whose Name we continue to recommend our selves, and friends, and all thy People to thee, as he hath taught us; saying;

Our Father, &c.

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A Shorter.

E prostrate our selves before thee, O Lord of heaven and earth; acknowledging that we are but dust and ashes at the best, and have made our felves finful dust and alles; utterly unworthy to speak unto thee, either for our felves, or for We most humbly and earothers. nestly beg thy gracious pardon; and beseech thee, for Jesus Christ his sake, to accept of our unfeigned forrow for what is past, and of our fincere purposesby thygracious assistance (which we know thou wilt not deny us) to live more foberly, righteoufly and godly for the time to come.

More particularly we implore thy grace and favour towards this thy sick fervant; in whom we fee how weak and frail we all are. Work in him * a true and hearty repentance for all the fins

he hath committed, in thought, word or

or deed, against thy Divine Majesty. Give him a lively and stedfast faith in thy Son Jesus, who died for our offences, and was raifed again for our justification. Fill him with a reviveing hope of that immortal life, which he hath purchased and promised; and with a powerful sense of thy fatherly love to him, and tender care over him, in the most afflicted condition. Let him feel thou lovest him, by thy heavenly supports & comforts vouchfafed to him from above; and by bestowing on him perfect patience, and absolute submission to thee, during this fickness.

We know there is nothing imposfible with thee, but that if thou wilt, thou canst raise him up, and grant him a longer continuance in this world. O that it may be thy gracious pleafure to restore him to us! may it please thee to fave him and deliver him, for thy goodness sake, O Lord. Bless all the means that are used for his preservation, and make them effectual. Re-

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buke his disease by thy All-powerful Word, and command it to leave him. And in the mean time, help him meekly to resign himself to thy wisdom, and humbly to conside in thy loving kindness; and quietly to wait upon thee, for ease and refreshment at present, and for persect health and

strength at last.

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Which we earneftly befeech thee, in thy good time to bestow upon him, for the fake of him who is the Refurrection and the Life, the Healer and Repairer of our decayed Nature, the Saviour both of Soul and Body, our Compassionate Intercessor with thee, who can have a feeling of all our Infirmities and Miseries, and we believe is always ready to fuccour those who in all their troubles make him their Refuge: To whom, with thee, O Father Almighty, in the Unity of the same eternal Spirit, be all honour and glory, thanksgiving and praise, fubmission and reverence, love and observance, chearful service and hearty

hearty obedience, both now and for evermore. Amen.

A Prayer to be said by the Family or Friends, when a Sickness continues long.

D Ehold, O Lord, thy poor unworthy fervants, who here most humbly bow themselves unto thee; acknowledging that we deferve not to live, nor to have the least regard from thee in our distress, whom we fo much neglected when we enjoyed our hearts desire. Be merciful unto us, O Lord, be merciful unto us, for the fake of him, who shed his own most precious Blood for the salvation of returning finners. We come unto thee with forrowful hearts, bewailing our foolish wandrings from thee; and with fincere love, vowing more faithful obedience hereafter to thee.

Blessed be thy Goodness, that we have

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have fuch good hope thou wilt not cast us off; but restore us again into thy grace and favour. It encourages us to hope in thee also for this thy sick fervant, here lying under thy hand in great weakness of body. Look graciously upon him (or her) O Lord, and now that his outward man is much decayed, strengthen him, we beseech thee, so much the more by the grace of thy holy firit in his inward man. Give him unfeigned repentance for all the errors of his life past; a stedsast faith in thy Son Jesus; a comfortable affurance of the truth of all his precious promises; a lively hope of that im-mortal bliss, in which he reigns for evermore; and a strong sense of thy fatherly love to him, and care over him, under this fore and grievous affliction: which may make him heartily love thee, and entirely confide in thee, and absolutely resign both foul and body to thy wife disposal.

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We know there is nothing too hard for thee; but that, if thou wilt, thou

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thou canst bring him up, even from the Gates of Death, and grant hima longer continuance among us. May it be thy good pleasure, O most gracious God, still to continue him! Spare him, O Lord, and deliver him also speedily from this misery, under which he hath fo long groaned. Bless all the means that are used for his recovery; and for the support of his fpirits, and giving him refreshment, during this tedious fickness. Release him from his pain, or grant him some ease; or else encrease and strengthen his patience. Help him, in remembrance of thy past loving-kindness, to trust in thy goodness, and submit to thy wisdom, and bear with an equal mind, what thou thinkest fit to lay upon him: that he approving himself to thee, in these and all other vertues, while thou tryest him by so fore an affliction; may fay at the last, it was good for me that I was in trouble.

Unto thy infinite Mercies we re-

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commend him; and to the compassionate kindness of our Lord Jesus. Who we hope will hear all the prayers of his friends for him every where; and fend his goodSpirit to be his Comforter, and his good Angels to be his Guardians; and direct those who are to advise and prescribe the means of his restauration, and bring him to praise thee again in the Assemblies of thy Saints on earth; or, if thou hast otherwise disposed in thy wise Counfels, to praise thee in the great affembly of Saints and Angels in Heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord and only Saviour; to whom with thee and thy holy Spirit, be all praise, love and obedience, world without end, Amen.

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A Prayer to be said by the Family or Friends, when the sick person wants sleep.

A Dored be thy Love, thy wonderful Love, O most gracious God, who hast so many ways expressed thy bounty towards us. Thy Mercies in Christ Jesus surpass all our thoughts. Nor are we able to number all the other blessings, thou hast bestowed on us. How much do we owe thee, for the quiet sleep of but one night! We see in this thy poor afflicted servant, how much we ought to thank thee for this single blessing; that our eyes, when we would close them, are not held waking.

Pardon, Good Lord, our foul ingratitude for this and all the rest of thy undeserved mercies. And be pleased graciously also to visit him*, who still languishes on

* or ber. his fick bed; looking up to thee, from whom cometh our help.

Renew

Renew his wasted spirits with comfortable sleep. Compose him to a sweet and undisturbed rest. Refresh him thereby so sensibly, that he may be restored to such a degree of strength, as may make him able, in some measure, affectionately to acknowledge thy goodness, when thou hast dealt so howestically with him.

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Or if thou delayest to bestow that bleffing on him; O God, that in the multitude of his thoughts within bim, thy comforts may delight his foul. If he be still tossed upon a wearisome Bed without any rest, O that his Mind may rest and repose it self in the bosome of thy dearest love; and may feel the most fensible consolations from Heaven, not only quieting, but greatly rejoycing his heart. Preserve the use of his understanding, and let the enemy have no advantage of him: But make him able to fay, I will wait patiently for the Lord, till Pfal. 40. 1. he incline his ear unto me, and hear my cry.

O hear his prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto his cry. O spare Psal. 39. 12, him that he may recover frength, before he go hence and be no more.

Amen, for Jesus Christ his sake, A-

A Prayer to be said by the Family or Friends, when the sick person grows light-headed.

Lord, look down from heaven in much pity and compassion, upon this thy afflicted Servant; who is not able now to look up unto thee.

The sadder his * condition grows, the fitter object it is of thy infinite tender mercies. Who acceptest, we believe, of the Submission he made of himself, in the beginning of his sickness, to thy Almighty wisdom and goodness: And therefore, since it is thy pleasure to suffer

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fuffer his distemper to proceed to this dangerous extremity, wilt no less graciously love him, and delight in him, than if he could still give up himself to

thy bleffed will.

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And hear, O most merciful Father, our prayers in his behalf. Excite them alfo, to a greater ardency than ever for him, now that he can no longer commend himself to thy mercies. Pardon, Good Lord, pardon all his fins. Impute not to him any of his former follies. Lay not to his charge his not improving, or any ways mif-using of his reason and understanding. Which we earnestly, but humbly intreat thee to restore to him, together with such a measure of thy divine grace, as may quicken and affift him then to employ his thoughts to the best purposes: efpecially in meditating of thymercies, in studying thy praise, and in exhorting all others to love thee, and trust thee, and fincerely obey thee.

And while he remains thus deprived of his reason, be pleased to quiet

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and compose his spirits, or to prevent all surious motions there, or quickly to abate such violent passions; if any arise. For which end be pleased to remove all frightful imaginations far from him; and suffer not the evil one to approach him; preserve him from doing any harm, either to himself, or to any other. For sake him not, O Lord;

Pfal. 38.21, O our God, be not far from him. Make haste to help him, O Lord our Salvati-

Ffal. 40. 17. on. He is poor and needy, but the Lord thinketh on

Pfal. 78. 7. him: Thou art our helper and deliverer, make no

will we all give thanks unto thee for ever. We will be still praising thee; and shewing forth thy loving kindness to those who succeed us. That they may set their hope in thee our God; and not forget thy works, but keep thy Commandments.

Amen, Amen; make us all so happy for Jesus Christ his sake. Amen.

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A Prayer to be said by any pious person for a Sick Neighbour.

O Most gracious God, who by thy Son Jesus hast knit us all together in one body; that we should love one another; and whether one member suffer, all the members should suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the rest should rejoyce with it; I humbly implore thy tender mercies toward N. N. of whose afflicted condition I desire to have a compassionate sense and feeling.

Look graciously upon * or Her.
him *, O Lord, and visit him with thy salvation. Vouchsas I should desire for my self, were I in his estate. Give him a true penitent heart for all the offences he hath at any time committed: together with a lively saith in thy Son Jesus, who came into the World to save sinners.
Give him the comfort of a holy hope that

that thou acceptest his repentance, and faithful devotion to thee. Support him by this hope, under all his pain. And enable him patiently to submit to thy fatherly correction. Send him help now in time of need, both for his soul and for his body. Bless the means of his recovery. And if it be thy good pleasure, restore him speedily to his former health; together with a serious resolution in his heart, to serve thee more zealously all his days.

Or if thou hast otherwise resolved in thy wise Counsels, deliver him from the fear of death; assist him in his last agony; give him an easie and chearful passage out of this life; and send thy holy Angels to conduct him into rest and peace with our Lord Jesus. To whom with thee, OFather of mercies, and thy holy Spirit, be given all honour, glory and praise, by all creatures in heaven and earth, from this time forth and for evermore. Amen.

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If the Difease proceed to such an extremity, that in all appearance the Soul is ready to depart, there is a Commendatory Prayer appointed in the Publick Offices of Devotion, to be said by the Minister, whose assistance then sure will be desired. And besides, the sick person himself, as long as he is able, may thus recommend his soul unto Almighty God.

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A Prayer when a person is giving up the Ghost.

I Resign my spirit, O God, most chearfully into thy hands: hopeing to find mercy with thee through Christ Jesus. I know no other name under Heaven whereby I may be saved, but thine alone, O blessed Jesus; who wast dead, and art alive again, and livest for Rev. 1.18. evermore. I come unto thee, O Lord, con-

336 A Prayer at giving up the Ghost. confiding in thy most precious promises, (which I believe are faithful and true as thou art) for pardon and for immortal life.

Accept, I beseech thee, of my most hearty thanks for all thy mercies to me, from the beginning of my life to this moment. Pass by all my ingratitude and disobedience. Receive me into the company of the spirits of just men made perfect, to give thee thanks for ever.

And as I desire to find mercy with thee; so I forgive all my enemies: Beseeching thee likewise to forgive them; and to bless and comfort all my friends, and to make thy whole Church glorious; and to bring us all at last to live together in everlasting love and joy, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

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An Act of Resignation when a Friend is dead.

I Adore thee, O Lord, I bow my very will, with my whole foul to thee; whose judgments are unsearchable, and whose ways are past sinding out. I believe thou intendest to do me good, even by denying my earnest, and so often repeated desires. I will bless the Lord therefore at all times. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

I have received innumerable good things from thy hands, O Father of mercies, why should I not receive those that are evil? The Cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it? I humbly take it from thy hands, O my God, and submit to thy wise dispensation. I return to thee back again, that which thou so lovingly bestowedst upon me; with my most hearty thanks for lending me the enjoyment

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joyment of it so long. Do but pardon all my ingratitude, all the omif fions of my duty, and whatfoever I have done contrary to it; and I shall endeavour to rejoyce in thee always, and still to be praising thee under the frarpest chastisements, which are less than I deserve.

Bleffed be thy goodness, that I am not without hope of this gracious par-Bleffed be thy goodness, that thou hast not taken away thy holy Spirit from, me. Yea, bleffed be that goodness, that hath left me still fo many worldly bleffings; which ma ny want, and have lost their dearest Relations too. It is of the Lord's mercy, that Lovers, Friends and Acquaintance, together with all other comforts of this life, are not quite gone away from me, and removed into darkness. Blessed be God, that I am not groaning on a fick-bed; and that I languish not under the most tedious pains [bleffed be God, that I want not my daily bread, that I am not oppressed

pressed with debt, that I lye not in Prifon, or am not turned out of doors, having no certain dwelling-place.] Yea, bleffed be God that all my days have not been so miserable, as some few. have been. Bleffed be God that the days which I and He*, (who hath now left me) spent together, were not all bitterness and forrow; but were sweetned by the enjoyment of many, very many good things.

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O my foul, never cease to bless the Lord; forget not all his benefits. Especially his great love, his exceeding great love, in Christ Jesus: by whom he hath provided a remedy for all our griefs, and comforted us with the hope of another and better life, where there is no death, nor any pain or forrow, but all tears shall be wiped away from our eyes.

To thee I flee, O bleffed Jefus, who art my best and my eternal Friend. To thee who knowest our frame, and canft have compassion on our infirmities. Most humbly beseeching thee to bear me up under this sore affliction, in a thankful remembrance of all thy mercies. Yea, draw up my hear thereby, more towards heaven; where thou, my Life, art [where I hope my Husband, Wife or Friend is] where I hope to be when thou shalt call me away from hence: There to sing thy

praises with incessant joy, in the com-

pany of all thy Saints, and of the ho

ly Angels. Amen, Amen,

A Prayer when there is some hope of the sick man's Recovery.

thee, O Father of mercies, and God of all comfort, to implore thy grace and favour towards this thy fervant; who still lies under thy hand in great weakness of body. We thank thee, O Lord, that he*, is no weaker; but, though

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he be brought very low, we have fome hope thou wilt raise him up again. Blessed be thy goodness, that he is not gone down into silence, and hath not made his Bed in the dust.

Blessed be thy goodness.

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O thou Preserver of men, who hast begun to revive and quicken him again; go on to perfect that which belongs to his cure, and forfake not the work of thy own hands. Repair all the decays in his outward man; that his mind may also recover its former strength, to praise and bless thy goodness to him.

And visit him in the mean time with thy heavenly confolation from above. Fill him with comfortable thoughts of thy love, and of the tender compassionate care, which our Lord Jesus takes of all his afflicted fervants. Endue him still with more patient submission to thy will. And enable him both quietly to wait upon thee, till also to continue stedfastly resolved to

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ferve thee more faithfully with his reftored strength, through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour and Redeemer. By whom, and with whom, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

A Thankfgiving for the beginning of a Recovery.

Most great and mighty Lord, who killest and makest alive, who bringest down to the grave, and bringest up again. We thy poor Creatures, (most infinitely obliged to be thy faithful servants) who have so often sorrowfully cast down our selves before thee, to implore thy mercy towards this our afflicted Friend; do now most joyfully fall upon our knees to thank thee with one accord, for the gracious audience thou hast given to our prayers.

Desiring

the beginning of a Recovery. 343

Defiring to have our hearts raised to as great a degree of fervent love to thee, as they were of passionate defires that thou wouldst fpare him * from going * or her.

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Bleffed be God, who hath not turned away our prayer, nor his mercy from w. Bleffed be God for preserving our dear Friend, who is still in the land of the living. Bleffed be thy wonderful goodness (which we will never forget) who hast, in some meafure, turned our heaviness into joy, and our mourning into gladness. Blesfed be thy goodness, who hast begun to lift him up from the gates of death, and restored him to some degree of health. Yea, bleffed be that goodness, which did not for sake him in his fickness; but visited him with comforts from above, supported him in patience and submission to thy will, fent him seasonable relief, and prospered the endeavours of those, who confulted for his preservation.

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We hope we shall never cease to speak of thy loving kindness; but be still praising thee, whose mercy endures for ever. Who we hope also will proceed to consummate thy mercy towards him, by raising him up to praise thee together with us, in perfect health of body, and vigour of mind, and chearfulness of spirit.

For which end be pleased still to direct and bless the Medicines that are prescribed for the persecting of his cure. Succeed them, O Lord, that he may be able at last to go into thy house, to offer thee an oblation with great gladness; and to bless thy holy Name for thy wonderful works towards him, and towards the children of men: through Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour, to whom, with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory, world without end. Amen.

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IF God be pleased to restore the sick person to a state of Health, publick Thanksgiving ought to be rendred to Almighty GOD for it. And together with the Sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of our lips, (Heb. 13.15, 16.) he ought not to forget to do good, and to communicate to them that are in misery: for with such sacrifices GOD is well pleased. And to preserve a grateful remembrance of GOD's mercy; here follows a Form of Thanksgiving to be used in private by himself, and by his friends, that are concerned in his recovery.

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A Thanksgiving after recovery from a Sickness, to be said by the Person himself who is restored to health.

God, the fountain of life and of all good; who art continually more and more pouring forth thy benefits upon us. I thy poor creature, whose life thou hast mercifully spared when I deserved to be cut off, prostrate my self, in an humble sense of thy divine goodness, to render thee my most hearty thanks, and to renew my vows, which I made in the day of my distress.

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Plal 103. 1, 2, holy name. Bless the Lord,

Pfal. 34. 8. O my foul, and forget not

Pfal. 118. 17, all his benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities:

Pfal. 111.1. who healeth all thy difeafer. Who redeemeth thy

life from destruction: who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies. on

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mercies. Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things: so that thy youth is renewed like the Eagles. The Lord is merciful and gracious, flow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide; neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with me after my sins; nor rewarded me according to my iniquities. But as far as the East is from the West: so far hath he removed my transgressions from me. O taste and see, my soul, how grathat trusteth in him. I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord. The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

I will give thanks therefore unto the Lord with my whole heart; secretly among the faithful, and in the Congregation. I can do no less than dedicate this new life, which thou haft bestowed upon me, entirely to thy fervice: resolving to employ more vigoroufly all those powers of foul and body,

body, which are so graciously restored unto me, unto thy honour and

glory.

For which end I most earnestly defire, to have a lively sense preserved in my mind, of those things which were most powerful to move my heart towards thee, in the time of my fickness. O that this world may ever appear unto me, as it was then reprefented to my mind! That I may never fet my heart too much upon these perishing enjoyments, and short satisfactions; nor ever neglect thee, whose favour and grace I then fought fo earnestly as my chiefest good: but remembring how little comfort I could find in any thing here; what a joy it was to have any hope in thee, the eternal God; and how that in my best estate I am but altogether vanity; I may most feriously apply my self to work out my salvation with fear and trembling; and give all diligence to settle a stedfast hope in thee that never may be shaken.

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Make me often to remember that my days are but like a shadow that declineth, and I fal. 102. 11, 27.

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But thou, O Lord, shalt endure for ever, for thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end. That so, I may neither seek my happiness in this dying life, but in thy endless love and savour; nor be slothful in business; but fervent in Rom. 12. 11.

spirit, serving the Lord.

Blessed be thy goodness that I feel these holy thoughts and desires still remaining in me. Excite me, I humbly beseech thee, continually to renew them: that no day may pass without serious resections upon thy patient and long-suffering kindness towards me; upon the shortness of this life; the uncertainty of all earthly comforts; and the happiness of having a good hope in thee, by stedsast continuance in well doing. And let these thoughts be so deeply imprinted in my heart; that my affe-

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ctions may be weaned thereby from all things here below, and fet on things above, where Christ is at thy

right hand.

O that I may defire and covet those heavenly things for my portion, more than I do to eat and drink, or enjoy any other pleasure of this life. Make me to rejoyce in them, more than in a whole world of other comforts: and to stand in greater fear of losing them than I do to die, or endure any misery. Preserve in me, good Lord, such a sober and considerate disposition of mind, that I may never be proud, who am, I fee, but dust and ashes: nor confident of my ownstrength and power, which is but weakness and vanity: nor distrustful of thee, who art so gracious and merciful, as well as mighty to fave. Suffer me not to fink under any discouragements, who have the everlasting arms under me, the wisdom of Heaven to direct and guide me, and the infinite treasures of goodness to supply all my necessities. And

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And more particularly, I befeech thee to give me grace by my late confinement, weakness, dulness, want of appetite and rest, to learn to value very highly the benefits of liberty, strength and quickness of all my senses; and to bless thee, more than ever I have done, for the constant refreshments of my food in the day, and of undisturbed sleep in the night, together with the rest of the pleasures of life, to which thou hast restored me with my health.

Make me perfectly contented in any state and condition, whilst I enjoy so great a blessing as that; which comprehends so many others in it. And when thou art pleased to take it again away from me; O that I may be able to be contented then also, in a remembrance of all thy past kindnesses to me, and of a well-spent life, and careful improvement of this renewed health; and in hope of thy continued mercies to me in Christ Jesus, even to eternal life. To which I hum-

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bly beseech thee to bring me by an unchangeable love and obedience to thee in all the changes and alterations of this mortal life; for his sake who loved me and gave himself for me. To whom with thy self, in the Unity of the same spirit, be glory everlasting. Amen.

A Thanksgiving to be said by the Family.

Most holy, great and glorious God; the Almighty Creator of heaven and earth: who upholdest all things by the word of thy power and governest the whole world with admirable wisdom, justice and mercy. Thou deservest the highest acknowledgments of all thy creatures. The Praises of Angels are not worthy of thee; nor any of their thoughts equal to thy infinite Majesty. What can we with creatures then speak of thee; or what

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what thoughts shall we frame of thy perfections? Especially of the transcendent love, which hath moved thee in much compassion to consider our weaknesses, and help our infirmities? Thou hast taught us by our Lord Jesus what we should think of thee: having vouchsafed to dwell among us, and make thy self visible unto us, not only as the most Wise and Mighty; but as the most Holy, Righteous, Gracious and Merciful Lord, who designess the greatest blessings to us.

But now that we see thee, we have the greatest reason to abhor our selves in dust and ashes; when we consider how unlike we are unto thee in those excellent qualities, wherein thou hast made thy self known unto us; and how unthankful we have been unto thy divine goodness, which hath so strangely condescended unto us; who are unworthy of the least regard from thee. And yet such is thy tender mercy and pity towards us, that thou hast declared thy self willing to entertain even

even the greatest sinners into thy favour by making them better. We our selves have received innumerable tokens of thy great clemency, patience and forbearance. And now lately thou hast been pleased to give us a new instance of thy loving kindness, and of thy desire to win our hearts unto thee, in rescuing one of us from going down into the Grave, and restoring him to health and strength again.

The living, the living, O Lord, shall praise thee as we do this day: Yea, we will bless

Pfal. 104. 33: thy name as long as welive,

Pfal. 86.12,13. as long as me have any he-

Pfal. 86.12,13. as long as we have any bepfal. 118. 14. ing. We will praise thee,0

Pfal. 118. 14, Lord our God, with all our heart: and glorifie

thy Name for evermore. For great is thy mercy towards us: and thou hast delivered the foul of thy servant from the lowest hell. The Lord is our strength and our song: and is become our salva-

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tion. The voice of joy and health is in our dwellings: the right hand of the Lord bringeth mighty things to paß.

O that there were fuch an heart in every one of us, as to study seriously to know thee better, to meditate continually on thy benefits both to our fouls and bodies, to love thee entirely, and to endeavour to be like unto thee; which is the defign of thy goodness towards us. Empty our hearts of all other things; and make room for thy felf to dwell there, in wisdom, righteousness and true holiness

Dispose every one of us to follow Jesus Christ our Master in lowlines, patience and charity; and to be ordered by the governance of his holy Spirit; feeking always his glory

Common-Prayer-Book, in the Commination.

and serving him duly in our vocation with thanksgiving. Help us so to employ our time in our health, prosperity and pleasure, that we may have nothing to trouble us in the time of

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sickness, affliction and sorrow: But we may quietly and chearfully bear what thou layest upon us; looking unto Jesus, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at thy

right hand.

O bleffed Lord, deny us not the constant assistance of the Holy Ghost, to cherish, confirm and strengthen our holy refolutions; to fucceed our pious endeavours; to give us a quick sense of all thy mercies, and a lively remembrance of all thy fatherly chastifements; whereby we may be more and more excited to diligence, watchfulness, and zeal in thy service. Preferve us from a flothful and negligent spirit; and awaken in us such a sense of thee, and of our duty to thee, that we may search after thy Will diligently, and believe it heartily, and pra-Etise it carefully, and watch against all temptations heedfully, and pray fervently and frequently, and ponder feriously and thoroughly all the in-**Aructions**

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firmctionswe have received from thee, and our many and great obligations to thee.

O that it may be our choice to attend on thee; and that our hearts may be still with thee, when our necessities require our attendance to other things! That so we may not be too deeply engaged in the affairs of this life, to the prejudice of the eternal life of our souls: but we may go on to make it our great business to be truly godly, according to the pattern which our Lord hath left us; till we be fit to be lifted up to that high, and holy place where we believe he is, and see the glory which thou hast given him.

Now to him that holdeth our foul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved; to the God of our salvation, 68.20. to whom belong the issues from death, who hath turned our heaviness into joy, and put off our mourning, and

girded us with gladness; to him that doth wondrous things, the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

A Parent's Prayer for a Sick Child.

Lord, by whose infinite goodness I was brought into this world, and by whose indulgent care I have been continued here unto this time; in the enjoyment of a great many bleffings, of the least of which I am unworthy. I thank thee that to all other comforts of this life thou haft added the gift of this Child; whom thou hast preserved in its birth, and ever fince, by a marvellous providence. I am sensible that all I have is thine; and that I am but intrusted with this, as with all other good things, which I must return to thee whenfoever thou pleafest. Lord,

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Lord, assist me with the grace of thy holy Spirit (which I know thou art more ready to give than any other bleffing) that I may refign this child to thee, if thou art pleased now to call for it, with an humble, contented, patient and thankful mind: believing thou knowest better what is good for me, than I do my felf; & wilt certainly recompence fuch meek and quiet submission to thee, with as good or better enjoyments than those thou takest away. But if thou thinkest good still to prolong its days, and continue it with me; (which I most humbly beg of thy Divine Majesty) Behold, O Lord, the unfeigned purpose of my heart, faithfully to discharge my trust, and to bring it up in the fear and nurture of our Lord.

Endue me with principles of true wisdom and prudence, that I may educate it aright. Help me to give it a good example; and to use all diligence that it may ferve its generation according to thy will, and at last be re-

turned

turned back to thee, wise, and pure, and just, and good; fit for the company of the blessed in endless life. Unto thee, O Lord, I most heartily recommend both it and my self; whose wisdom knows where it is best to place thy creatures, whether in this, or in the other world; and whose goodness designs to make us happy in both. To thee, the only wise and good God, be all Praise, Honour, Glory and Thanksgiving; with Fear and Reverence, Love and chearful Obedience, both now and eternally. Amen.

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Tere follow Prayers, and Thankfgivings on sundry other occasions, which we may meet withal in the course of our life. In which it will be fit particularly to acknowledge GOD, and implore his mercy towards us. And let it be remembred, as I said before, that it is a part of Christian Piety to take care that alms and acts of Charity to others accompany our addresses to God. They are then certainly most seasonable, when we desire special favours from him, or return thanks for them. And hereby (as old Tobias Said, 4.9, 11.) We lay up a good treasure for our selves against the day of necessity. For alms is a good gift unto all them that give it, in the fight of the most High.

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A Prayer to be used by one that is going a long Journey.

God, who art alike present unto all places: who preserves man and beast: for those art good to all, and the standard mercies are over all thy works. All thy works shall praise thee, O Lord, and thy Saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and declare the

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Blessed be thy name for the knowledge thou hast given me, of thy will and merciful providence encompassing all creatures. And more particularly I rejoyce in the revelation which thou hast made, of thy Fatherly love and care over us the children of men, in Christ Jesus; Whò make his Angels Ministring Spirits for them, that are heirs of Salvation. In an hearty belief of thy holy Gospel, and a sin-

a sincere resolution to be obedient unto it in hope of that eternal life; I commit both my soul and body to thy most gracious protection: who art the defender of all them that put their trust in thee.

I trust thee, O Lord, with my felf and all belonging to me. I entirely depend on thy goodness, to be with me and prosper me, in the way that I go. Give thy good Angels charge of me: And especially accompany me with the presence of thy holy Spirit, to preserve my foul in safety, from all evilthoughts, defires or passions, that may any way betray me in word or deed, to offend thy Divine Majesty. Deliver me from the danger of any evil company into which I may fall: that I may not frame my felf to the humours of profane persons, but by a pious and discreet behaviour rather reprove them. And give me grace thankfully to embrace the company of those who are good, if I be blessed with it: that I may rejoyce in their fociety, R 2

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fociety, and improve it to my increase in wildom or pious affections towards thee.

Bless this habitation also, which I leave, and all remaining in it: that at what distance soever we be one from another, we may all live and walk in the same spirit of Faith, and Love, and Holiness. Give us an hap py meeting together again in this place, if it be thy good will and pleafure, to pay thee the vows which I make of greater care and diligence in thy service, and greater charity to wards all my neighbours. Howfoe ver, in the end of our pilgrimage, bring us all together in that bleffed rest which thou hast prepared for thy people, after all their travels and labours, through thy mercy in Christ Jesus. To which I commend my self and all mine, both now and ever Amen.

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A short Prayer in ones Inne, or at the end of the Journey.

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BLeffed be thy goodness, O'Lord my Creator and continual Preferver, by which I have been led in fafety to this place; and am not only alive, but found and unmaimed. To thee, O God, will I fing and give praise, who hast dealt so bountifully with me. For thou hast delivered my fout from Plat 116. 1. death, mine eyes from 7,8,9. tears, and my feet from Gen. 15. 1. falling. I love the Lord, 17. 1: because he hath heard my voice, and my supplications. Because he hath inclined his ear unto me, therefore will I call upon him as long as I live. I will walk also with a perfect heart before the Lord; who is my shield, and my exceeding great reward.

Preserve in me, I beseech thee, a pious remembrance of all thy mercies, and of all those holy resolutions,

R 3 which

which they excite in me. Take me still into thy Almighty protection. Continue me in thy fear, and love, That, haand faithful obedience. ving finished this journey in peace, I may return to the place from whence I came, full of thankful affections to thee, and zealously disposed to perform my vows, in a careful discharge of all the duties, which my place and relations require of me. And enable me, good Lord, ever to perform them with uprightness of heart and good will, as becomes the fervant of Christ Tefus.

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To the same merciful providence which hath watched over me all this day, I commend my self, and all my relations and friends every where, this night: Beseeching thee to awaken in me in the morning, the same love, and thankfulness, and humble confidence, which I now find, and desire ever to have, in my heart towards thee, my gracious Father, Saviour and Deliverer. To whom be glory,

glory, honour and praise everlasting.

A Prayer in case of any hurt from Thieves, or otherwise.

Most merciful Father, for so I ought ever to acknowledgethee, without whom, one of the smallest creatures cannot fall to the ground, and to whom we are of Matth. 10. 29. more value than many of them; I humbly and meekly fubmit my felf to this cross in my way, which thou in thy wisdom hast suffered to befal me. I know that thou art able to make even this, with all other things, work together for my good. And therefore I befeech thee but graciously to pardon my fins which deferve greater punishment, and to preferve my foul still in safety from all murmuring and repining at thyprovidence, by a stedfast faith and trust in R 4 thee

thee, and an absolute resignation to thy holy will and pleasure; and I shall not cease to bless thee, and to speak

good of thy name.

Help me to learn by this to live in a constant sense of the uncertainty of all worldly hopes, to fet my affections more perfectly on unchangeable enjoyments, and to place my happiness only in chearful obedience and contented patience, in all estates and conditions of life. I remember that we are all but pilgrims and strangers whilst we are here; subject to many other changes & chances in this mortal life. And therefore what soever I, or those I have left at home, may further suffer before my return, Lord, affift us all to take that patiently also: And as we have received fo many good things from thee, to receive likewise that which is evil; giving thanks to thee the Father of mercies, who haft given us fuch a good hope of perfect fecurity, peace and joy in our heavenly Countrey, when we have

have done and endured all thy pleafure. In the expectation of which blessed state I will continually rejoyce; praying thee to purish me more and more, that I may be prepared for it, and at last by thy mercy enter into it, to give thee eternal praises. Amen.

A Prayer to be said for a Friend in a Journey.

God, whose Almighty Power, and wise Providence, and Omnipresent Goodness, is the security, support, and comfort of all those that know thee. It is the highest satisfaction of our souls to have a lively hope in thee of eternal life in the other world. And to be perswaded that thou lovest us, and wilt take care of us, and bless us whilst we continue here, and that nothing can befal

us without the knowledge and confent of thy infinite goodness, gives the most solid peace and repose unto our spirits, in all the alterations and changes of this life. I rejoyce in the belief, that I live in a world, which is full of thee; that I am always under thy eye, and have thee near unto me; as to observe me, so to help, protect and defend me.

And I befeech thee, fill the mind of him *, who is now # Or ber. gone from me, with the fame sense of thee; that be may carry along with him every where, this stedfast faith and hope in thee, as the flay, the rest and the refreshment of his foul. How far foever he be from me, O that he may be nigh to thee, in frequent, ferious thoughts of thee, and hearty love to thee, and perfect trust in thee, and a constant disposition of mind and will to do and be what thou pleasest. That travelling under the fliadow of the Almighty, no harm may come to him: but even those things which we account the greatest mischiefs, if they shall betide him, may be humbly accepted by us all, with fear and reverence, and chearful submission to thee; as becomes those who profess our selves thy friends, as well as thy servants.

No Thieves, Murderers, or other evil persons or things, can approach him, I know, without thy leave: who governest and over-rulest the motions of every creature at thy pleafure, to which we ever ought to fubmit our own. But if thou thinkest good to restore bim bither again untouched by any of them, Lord, help us to be so much the more thankful to thee; who dealest with us according to our own hearts defire. O that the sense of thy goodness then, may fo powerfully affect our hearts; that we may be moved thereby to a greater zeal and freedom of spirit in thy fervice, and be the more forward to imitate thee in doing good, and thewing.

fhewing mercy to all men! O that thy benefits may never flip out of our minds! O that the meditation

Pfal. 104. 34.

of them may be sweet unto us! and we may

62. 8.

learn thereby to trust in thee at all times, and pour

Tob. 4. 16.

out our hearts before thee: for thou art a refuge for

7, 12,

us.

These lastwords may ferve for short Ejaculation in bis behalf at any time of the day,

Now the merciful God give him good success in all things! The God which dwelleth in Heaven, prosper his journey, and the Angel of God. keep him company! Amen.

A Thanksgiving after a safe Return home.

IN an humble joyful sense of thy fatherly care and providence over me, ever fince I went from this. place(to which thou hast brought me back in peace and fafety) I cast down my self at thy seet, O Lord God of heaven, praising thy Almighty goodness, with an heart full of love and devotion to Thee. It is of thy mercy alone that I am not confumed, and because thy compassions fail not. That I am not groaning under sickness, or wounds and bruises in my body; nor fighing for the loss of my goods either at home or abroad, is to be ascribed to that tender mercy which spreads it felf over all thy works; and hath been a covering to me night and day, in every place where I have been, from I know not how many dangers. I thank thee also for letting me fee the faces of my relations and friends again,

again, and that no evil hath come night heir dwellings: but especially for preserving mysoul in integrity and uprightness before thee; and for delivering me from the power of temptations, and from wounding my conscience, by any wilful offence against

thy Divine Majesty.

It is too little to render to thee my Praises and Thanksgivings; I will pay thee my Vows wherein I stand engaged to thee; and here offer unto thee my self, soul and body, to be made a more pure, perfect and acceptable sacrifice unto thee through Christ Jesus Maintain, I beseech thee; such alively and lasting remembrance of thy kindness in my heart, as may both provoke me to love and to good works, and also strengthen my saith and hope in thee on all occasions for the time to come.

mention thy late deliverances, all the rest of thy mercies: which are so mainly and so various, that, alas! we take

little

little notice of many of them. In the constant and undisturbed course of them, we are apt to be less sensible how much we stand indebted to thee for them. Yea, they have been so long continued to us, and we are so far from the beginning of them, that we are too prone to forget the head & fountain from whence they spring.

O, how fad is it, that we should love thee less, because thou lovest us fo much! and that we should think the feldomer of thy bounty, because thou constantly rememberest us and dost us good! How much should we praise thee for our health and ease, if we were fick or in pain but afew days! And yet now we praise thee but a little, though we are well many years. How thankful should we be, if we were freed from the Devil, after he had affrighted and vexed us but one night! and yet now, alas! we scarce mind thy goodness, which perpetually preserves us from his assaults.

Endue me, O God of all grace, with

with a more ferious spirit, often reflecting and meditating upon thee, & upon thy benefits, both to my soul and body, for this life and that which is to come. That I may not be taught the value and number of thy blessings, by being deprived of them; but in their constant use and enjoyment may ever duly ponder them: extolling and praising thy infinite goodness, with sensible love to thee, and delight in

doing of thy Will.

For which end, I befeech thee to endue me with power from above, that I may not deceive my own foul with some passionate desires, transports of joy, or sudden resolutions: but deliberately, and with the full confent of my heart devoting my felf to thy service, I may conscientiously study to improve all thy mercies to the honour and glory of thy Name, the credit of my Religion, the good and profit of my Neighbours, and my own folid peace and comfort at prefent, and eternal joy at the day of the And Lord.

And bless all others, I beseech thee, that desire the same mercy, of which thou hast made me partaker. Receive them into thy protection: conduct them safely to the end of their journeys: Make them ever mindful of thy loving kindness; and careful to remember that every new benefit is a new bond to better obedience. Unto which, good Lord, incline us all more and more, for thy mercies sake in Christ Jesus; by whom and for whom thy glorious Name be blessed and praised for ever. Amen.

A Prayer to be said by one going a Voyage on the Sea.

Which may be used, with a little alteration, by his Friends for him.

Most mighty Lord, the God of Our falvation; who art the confidence of all the ends of Pfal. 65. 5. the earth, and of thems that are afar off upon the Sea: Under whose powerful protection we are alike secure in every place; and without whose providence over us, we can no where be in fafety. I am fensible of the tender care thou hast long taken of me, and that I have been preserved by thee from innumerable dangers, both in my infancy and childhood and ever fince; for which I have not thanked thee as I ought. I most humbly befeech thee graciously

to pardon this and all other my offences, which might justly weaken my confidence in thee; did I not feel thy grace in Christ Jesus, who dyed for us, to be so great, as to fill my heart not only with unfeigned forrow for them, but with holy resolutions to be more grateful and dutiful in time to come.

This emboldens me, with an humble faith in thy Almighty goodness, to commend my self still to the conduct, guidance and bleffing of thy merciful Providence. O God, receive me, though a finful creature, into thy favour and grace. Purge my heart from all affection to every thing that is evil; that I may not carry the sense of any guilt unrepented of, along with me in my voyage: But have my heart fetled in fuch an unmoveable love to all Piety, righteousness and sobriety of mind and life, that no fform or tempest or other danger may dismay me and make me afraid. They are all, I know,

know, in thy hands; to which I commit my-felf with an entire trust in thee, that nothing shall hurt me while I follow that which is

good.

If thou art pleased to bring me to my desired haven, Lord, possess me then with these good thoughts and affections which I seel at present in my heart towards thee: That my chief joy may be in thee, and in the love I find in my heart to thee; and I may never forget thee by intemperate mirth and pleasure in any other enjoyment. But if thou thinkest good otherwise to dispose of me, thy will, O Lord, be done. I commend both my body and my spirit into thy hands; who art able to make the Sea give up her dead, by thine Almighty Word.

Help me always to hold fast that hope of eternal life as an anchor of my.

Soul both sure and stedHeb. 6. 19,20. fast; which may preserve me in unshaken comfort and joy

at the hour of death it self. And looking up to that quiet place whither Jesus our fore-runner is entred for us, I may begin those Praises and Thanksgivings which I hope shall have no end; but be continued for ever in the company of the blessed in the other world. Unto which I beseech thee of thine infinite mercies to bring me, through Christ Jesus; who is made an High Priest for ever. At men.

A Thanksgiving after it is finished, and the party returned home again.

Bleffed Lord; Thon art great, and greatly to be praised; for by thy word the heavens were Pfal. 48. 1. made: and all the host of 33. 6,7. them by the breath of thy mouth. Thou didst gather 135. 6. the waters of the Sea to-107.24,8c. gether, as an heap: and laidst them up in the store-houses of the deeps. They are all at thy command, and what soever thou pleasest, that dost thon in Heaven and in Earth, in the Seas and all deep places. I have seen thy works, O Lord, and thy wonders in the deep. For thou spakest the word, and the stormy wind arose, which lifted up the waves thereof. And again, when we cryed unto thee, thou madest the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof were still.

Bleffed

Blessed be thy Almighty Goodness, which carried me fafe through fuch great and dreadful dangers. Bleffed be thy goodness, that the deep hath not swallowed me up, and that I am not gone down into filence. Bleffed be thy goodness, that neither my body, nor my goods, became a prey to unreasonable men; but that thou broughtest me to the Haven where I would be, and hast now returned me home in fafety.

O God, that I may never forget the vows which I was forward to make when I was in trouble! Preserve in me for ever an awful fenfe and apprehension of thy great power, who

bringest the wind out of thy treasuries; and rulest the raging of the Sea, and stillest the noise of its waves. Who would not fear thee, O Lord, who

Pfal. 135. 7.

89. 9.

Jer. 5. 22.

Pfal. 120. 11.

would not tremble at thy presence? who hast placed the Sand for the bound of the Sea, by a perpetual decree that it cannot pass it; and though the waves thereof tost themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not

paß over it.

O possess my heart with a greater reverence of thy divine Majesty, that I may ever serve thee with fear, and rejoyce before thee with trembling. Especially make me fearful of ossending thee, who art so great and powerful; and hast done such great things for me; and canst do greater; and wilt do them, as thou hast promised, by Philip. 3. 20. Christ Jesus; who hath power to subdue all things to himself.

Bleffed be thy infinite grace, which heth wrought fuch a marvellous redemption for us by him. How shall I escape, if I neglect so great salvation? How miserable shall I be, if, after all the dangers from which I have now been rescued, I should for my ingratitude and disobedience be cast into the lake of sire and brimstone? O God, that all thy mercies and deliverances here

here may, by a thankful remembrance and careful improvement of them, only prepare me for that glorious deliverance at the day of the Lord Jefus! and as by thy good providence thou hast saved me from the violence of storms and tempests, and other hazards: fo by thy grace deliver me from the power and violence of all temptations; and enable me ftedfast ly to perfift in well doing, and patient fuffering unto the end.

Endue me with fuch a right fente of my Religion, as may make it to be my delight; that so I may be out of all danger of being prevailed withal to forfake that which is fo fweet and pleasant to my foul. O that it may be my guide in prosperity, and my comfort in adversity; the rule of my life, and my great satisfaction in death Sanctifie every condition unto me; that fickness or health, poverty or riches, honour or difgrace, may prove real bleffings to me, and make me profit in piety and vertue. And

let a great sense of thee, and of Religion intermix it felf with all my imployments. Teach me fo to behave my felf, that I may be acceptable in thy fight, not only when I make fuch addresses as these unto thee: But whether I eat or drink, or whatfoever I. do else, I may abide in thy love, and be approved by thee, for a good and faithful fervant.

All which, I most humbly beg of thee, and whatfoever thou feeft good for me, in the name of the Lord Jefus; by whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father almighty, world without end.

Amen.

A Prayer in a Storm.

of trouble to call on thee; to whom alone belong the issues from death. I flee to thee for protection and safety in this great and dreadful distress. The Sea roars, and the Deep is ready to swallow me up. The floods, O Lord, are lifted up, the floods lift up their waves. But the Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters; yea, than the mighty waves of the Sea.

To thy Almighty love I commit my felf, who canst immediately rebuke the Winds and the Sea, and turn this storm into a calm. I have justly deserved, I know, to be cast away, and rejected by thee, upon whom I now cast my felf for safety. But I hope thou wilt accept of my unseigned forrow for all my sins, and my unseigned purpose to forsake them. Have mercy upon me, have mercy upon me, I most humbly beseech thee,

O most merciful Father, for Jesus Christ his fake; who descended into the lower parts of the earth for me, and is now ascended far above all heavens, to fuccour those that call upon thee in his Name. For his fake spare me, at least from going down into utter darkness, and if it be thy will, from perishing here in the deep waters. O, give me the comfort of thy mercy, that, though the Sea rages, my

heart may be quiet and still.

And as I desire to be preserved from this present danger, so I earnestly desire thou wilt preserve in me hereafter a pious dread of thy Divine Majesty; the least expression of whose displeasure, I see in this tempest, is exceeding full of terrour. Awaken my foul perpetually, by the thoughts of it, to live a more fober, righteous and godly life. That being faved from death, I may never forget thy loving kindness; but study as long as ever I live, to shew my self truly thankful to thee, by fincere and careful obedience, through our Lord Jefus. To whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, be eternal praises. Amen.

A Thanksgiving after a Storm.

GLory, honour, thanksgiving and praise, be unto thee, O God, my Saviour, and my mighty Deliverer. Thou art worthy of all my love, and all my service, of more than I can be ever able to render to thee; who haft Made me, and Redeemed me, and now graciously preferved me. What shall I return unto thee, for all the benefits thou hast heaped on me? I can never thank thee, never love thee enough, for those which I have formerly received; and yet thou hast now put a new fong into my mouth, even praise unto my God. Psal. 40. 2.

For if the Lord had not been with

me. I must needs acknow-Ifal. 124. 1, 2, ledge, if it had not been 3,4,5. the Lord who protected me,

when the Sea rose up against me: Then it had swallowed me up quick, when it fwelled and raged horribly against me. Then the Waters had overwhelmed me, the streams had gone over my soul. Then the proud waters had gone over my foul.

Blessed be the Lord, who

Jonah 2. 3, 4, hath not cast me out of his 7,9. sight, nor suffered all his

billows and waves to pass over me. I have escaped the stormy wind and tempest, the storm is ceased, and I am escaped. I will sacrifice to thee, therefore, the voice of thankfgiving. I will pay that which I have vowed. Salvation is of the Lord. Our belp is in the Lord, who made the Heaven and Earsh.

Let the remembrance of thy mercy never flip out of my mind. And make me as mindful of my own promises, as forward to every part of my duty, and chearful in the perform-

ance

ance of it; that so I may be able to trust in thee at all times. When my soul is ready to faint within me, help me to remember thee, O Lord: and always study to walk before thee, as thy, every way, Redeemed One. Who desires that all those who have been partakers in the same deliverance, may all express the same thankfulness; and pay thee the vows which their lips have uttered, when they were in trouble.

O Magnifie the Lord with me, and let

us exalt his name together.

Let us facrifice the facrifice of thankfgiving, and declare his works with rejoycing.

For his merciful kindness is great towards us: and his truth endureth for ever. Praise the Lord. Amen, Amen. A Prayer in time of great Thunder and Lightning.

Great God; who art wife in heart, and mighty in strength; who removest the Moun-Job 9. 4,5,6, tains, and overturnest them in thine anger; Who shakest the earth out of her place, and the pillars thereof tremble; Who dost great things past finding out; yea, and wonders without number. I prostrate my felf in awful adorations of thee, For the voice of the Lord Pfal. 29. 4, 7. is very powerful, the voice of the Lord is full of Majesty. The voice of the Lord rends the air, and sends out flames of fire.

Who would not fear thee, O God of glory? who would not stand in awe of thee? who canst instantly, I see, tear us in pieces, and none can deliver us. It is of thy meer mercy, that the arrows thou now sendest out, do not scatter.

featter us: and that thou dost not shoot out lightnings, to discomfit us. Blessed be thy goodness, that we are not utterly consumed by the blast of the breath of thy mostrils. O that thy sparing mercy may sensibly affect my heart, and move me hereafter to serve thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear: remem—

Heb. 12. 28.

bring that our God is a consuming fire:

Settle in my heart an holy dread of thee, that as I now tremble at thy voice; fo I may always tremble at thy word: And not dare to offend thee; who wilt fend thy Son, I know, one day (in a far more terrible manner than this) with thy mighty Angels, in flaming fire, taking ven-2 Thef. 1, 8 geance on them that know not thee, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. O that my heart may be possessed now with such a constant fear of thee, and fuch an ardent love & devotion to thee; that at that dreadful day, when heaven and earth

fhall quake, I may be able, with a good hope in thee, joyfully to expect a comfortable fentence from thee. That when the wicked shall hear that voice, (more terrible than any Thunder) Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the Devil and his Angels: I may be in the number of those happy Souls, to whom our Lord will say; Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the king dom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Which I humbly beg for his sake, under whose feet thou hast put all things in subjection, both in heaven and earth; to him with thy self and the Holy Spirit, be given as is most due, all honour and glory, all service and humble obedience, both now and evermore. Amen.

A Prayer to be used by a Woman with Child.

God, the Author of our being, the Fountain of life, and all of ther good; who hast begun an excellent work in me, which no eye but thine sees, and no hand but thy Almighty power can finish. I adore thy great and glorious Majesty in this and in all other thy works of wonder. Thou dost great things without number but art more particularly to be acknowledged in the formation of mankind, who are fearfully and wonderfully made, after thy own image and likeness.

Be pleased, O Lord, in thy infinite goodness to persect and complete that which thou hast begun. Preserve the smallest degree of life, which thou hast inspired. Bestow upon it entireness of all its parts; and prepare a convenient habitation for an understanding spirit, capable

the best wisdom, and inclinable to virtue and goodness. Prevent, good Lord, the miscarriage of my hopes; and ripen them to a good issue. And the nearer they come to their full growth; strengthen the more my humble trust in thee, and submission to thee, and hearty desires to encrease the number of thy faithful People together with my own

Family.

That ought to be the chiefest defire of my soul, to be formed my self
in all things, according to the mind
and will of thee, my God; that so I
may be an instrument of doing good
to others. O thou who hast wrought
many holy purposes and resolutions
in my heart, preserve and confirm
them, that they may not prove abortive; but bring forth continually
the fruit of good living. Perfect me
in Knowledge, in Faith, in Love,
and in Obedience, Enable me so discreetly and carefully to discharge the
duties of all the Relations wherein I

at present, or shall hereafter, stand; that I may be a comfort to them, and a credit to Religion. And howsoever thou disposest of me or them, Lord, make me well contented; and in every condition to give thanks unto thee, and to rejoyce in thy holy Name, and in the hope of eternal life; through Christ Jesus my most blessed. Lord and Saviour. Amen.

A Prayer when the time of her Travel draweth near.

OD, the helper and deliverer of all those that trust in thee; by whose power I was formed in my Mothers Womb, by whose care I was brought from thence, and by whose merciful kindness I have been preserved in many dangers since. I praise and magnific thy great and glorious Name; and am encouraged by the remembrance of thy mercies, which have been ever of old, to implore thy compassionate help in the approaching time of my need; pain

and danger.

Thou art present to all thy Creatures, and hearest the cries of the Beasts of the Earth, which all wait upon thee. O be not far from me, when trouble is near: but hearken unto me, and save me, when I call upon thee! Shorten my pains, or lengthen my patience; which thou pleasest. Bear up my spirit in submission to thy will, and in some humble hope that I shall forget my anguish.

for joy that a man is born

Joh. 16:213 into the world. For sake

1 fal. 138:8. not the work of thy own

hand: but in due time perfect it, and

bring forth that which thou haft wrought in secret, into the light; that we may all see the wonders of thy wisdom, and praise thy goodness and thy power.

My Parents trusted in thee; they trusted,

trusted, and thou didst Pfal. 22. 4, 5. deliver them. They cryed unto thee, and were delivered: they cryed unto thee, and were not confound ed. In thee likewise do I humbly put my trust and confidence: which nothing disheartens but myown great unworthiness; by reason of my forgetfulness of thy benefits, and unthankful returns for former mercies. bestowed upon me. But thou hast taken care that this should not difcourage me neither, by proclaiming a gracious pardon, by him that was born of a Woman, and dyed for us, unto contrite and reforming finners.

Accept, I beseech thee of my sincere resolutions to preserve hereaster a more affectionate remembrance of thy love to me, and to dedicate my self and all I have to thy service, in faith, and charity, and holines, with sobriety.

Or if thou art pleased otherwise to dispose of me, I resign my self hear-tily

tily unto thee. Lord receive me to a better life, where all fighing and forrow shall be done away, and eternal joy entirely possess our hearts. Amen, for Christ Jesus his sake. Amen.

A Prayer to the same purpose to be said by her Relations.

Most mighty Lord, who hast already given us immumerable pledges of thy love, and many arguments to trust in thee for ever, and to expect with quiet and patient minds the issue of thy wise and good providence. Thou hast respect to all the works of thy hands; especially to the sons of men, and to those above the rest, who seek thy favour, and give thee the glory of all thy mercies, and are resolved to devote themselves, and their children, and all they

they have, to do thee honour in the world. We most humbly commend thy servant, drawing near the time of her Travel, to thy care and blessing: beseeching thee to give her a gracious deliverance, and to ease her of the burden, wherewith she labours.

We our felves are monuments of that mercy, which we beg of thee. Thou broughtest us into this world, and didft unloofe the bands wherewith we were fwadled in our Mothers womb. We have had long experience also of thy readiness to succour us, and to do us good ever fince; many times beyond our defires and hopes, and always beyond our defervings. We dare not but commit our selves and every thing belonging untous, most heartily into thy hands: remembring that thou hast the same power and goodness still, by which we came into the light of the living; and that thou still exercisest them, as thy wisdom thinks most meet.

We cannot defire to be better provided

vided for, than as thy infinite underflanding and counsel judges mostconvenient for us. Unto that we refer our selves: befeeching thee, if it be thy good pleasure, that her deliverance may be as speedy as her cries unto thee, or her patience as great and long as her pains. Thou who ripeneft the fruits of the earth, and then givest us to gather them to our comfort; blast not our humble hopes of the fruit of the womb: But after thou hast brought it to maturity, deliver it into our hands, as a new pledge of thy goodness to us; for which we will ever thankfully acknowledge. and praife thy Name.

Or if thou hast otherwise determined; Lord, give us grace to submit to thy holy will, and to rest satisfied in thy wise appointments, and never to distrust thy goodness and care over us. Yea, help us still to bless thee, and to speak good of thy Name, saying; The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be

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the name of the Lord, from henceforth and for ever. Amen.

A Prayer to be said by them, when she is actually in Travel.

O Father of mercies, and God of all comfort; our only help in time of need. We flee to thee for fuccour in behalf of this thy fervant, who now expects thy mercy, in this her great diffress. The forrows which thou threatnedst to our first Parent, are come upon her; the pangs of travel have taken hold of her. May it please thee, O Lord, to give her ease, by being her speedy Deliverer.

As thou hast made her conceive, and hast now brought to the birth; so give her strength also to bring forth. Support her spirits in her labour. Bless the endeavours of those who

who are to affift her. Preferve that infant life which struggles in her womb to be delivered. And let us fee the work of thy hands, to all our

joy and comfort.

O bleffed Jesus, who thy self wast born of a Woman, make haste to help her. Be with her in her agony. Enable her patiently to bear her pain; and humbly to depend on thy goodness, for safety and salvation. And if it seem good to thee, shorten her labour, and make her the joyful Mother of a Child; to succeed in our place to love and serve thee, the Saviour of Men. Amen.

These sentences may be often repeated. Lord hear our Prayer: And let our cry come unto thee.

for thy mercies sake. Psal. 44. ult.

O Saviour of the world, who by thy

cross and passion hast redeemed us; save her and help her, we humbly befeech thee, O Lord.

A Thanksgiving to be used by those present after her safe Deliverance.

of heaven and earth, for thy long continued goodness to us thy creatures, who are unworthy of the least of thy favours. In thee we live, and move, and have our being. And it is only of thy mercy, that we have not lived in perpetual pain and torment, spending our days in sighs and lamentations: but have enjoyed much health and ease, and had innumerable occasions to praise thee, and to rejoyce in thee; who loadest us daily with thy benefits. Blessed be thy Name, O Lord, who forgivest all our iniquities, and healest all our diseases.

Who redeemest our life from destruction, and crownest us with loving kindneß, and tender mercies. More particularly we thank thee, that thou hast heard the humble supplications of this thy fervant; to whom thou hast now granted a gracious deliverance, and turned her forrow and heaviness, into joy and gladness. We thank thee, that thou hast fent her feafonable helpers, and bleffed their endeavours for the preservation of her, and of the fruit of her womb. And that thou likewife vouchsafest her all needful things, for her refreshment in this weak condition wherein The lies; waiting upon thee for the perfecting of thy mercies towards her.

Accept, we befeech thee, of our hearty acknowledgments, of thy powerful and good providence over her, and over any person here present, in the like necessity; which we now thankfully call to mind, and desire may never be forgotten. O that

a lively remembrance of this, and all other thy mercies, may so mightily affect our hearts; that we may be moved thereby to fear thee all our days, and to love thee, and to put our trust in thee, and with quiet and resigned minds to cast all our burdens and cares on thee, in a constant and chearful obedience to all thy holy commands!

And fince thou hast begun to be so gracious to this thy hand-maid, grant unto her and her relations further favour; and finish their life

in health, with joy and Tob. 8. 16.

mercy. Renew her strength daily: and as that encreaseth; so make her thankfulness and pious affections to wards thee, and serious resolutions to obey thee faithfully, grow up together therewith.

Refresh her spirit, while she lyeth on this bed of weakness, with many heavenly thoughts and delightful meditations of all thy mercies towards her and towards mankind: especial-

ly with a fense of thy wonderful love in Christ Jesus; who was pleased to be born of a Woman, and to become like one of us; that we might be affured of thy care over us in every condition, and be made thy children, and at last be heirs of everlasting life. And when she hath recovered her former strength, make her to feel this love still more powerful in her heart; exciting her to serve thee carefully in all righteoufness, fobriety, modesty, devotion and readiness to affift others, especially the poor and needy, in the same distress wherein she hath been her felf.

We commend likewise this little one, which thou hast blessed her withal, unto thy tender care and fatherly love: beseeching thee, that it may live to be dedicated unto thee, and to be instructed in the knowledge of thee, and to praise thee, as we now do, for bringing it into the World; and for making it partaker likewise of thy grace in Christ Jesus. Or if it

shall seem good to thee, to let either of them fall into any further danger, enable her to endure it with patient fubmission to thee: trusting even in death it felf, in thy good providence, and in thy precious promises, who never failest those that faithfully seek thee.

Hear us, O Father of mercies, and pardon our offences; pity our infirmities; make us more thankful for what we have received; and more fit for thy future mercies, either in this life, or in the next through thy infinite love declared to us in Christ Jesus; in whose holy words we conclude our prayers, faying, as he hath taught us.

Our Father, &c.

A Thanksgiving to be used by the person her self, when she is able.

Nto thee, O God, do I give thanks, unto thee do I give thanks: for that thou art near thy won-Pfal. 75.1. drous works declare. In 18. 6. my distres I called upon thee, and my cry came un-34. 4. 138. 3. to thee. I fought thee, O Lord, and thowheardest and more me and deliveredst me 166. 20 from all my fears. In the 56. 725 day when I cryed, thou anfreeredst me, and strongthnedst me with strength in my Soul. Thou hast brought up my Soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I Should not go down to the Pit. Bleffed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me. Bleffed be God, who hath preserved the fruit of my womb, and made me the joyful Mother of a child. Thy vons are upon me, O God, I will render praise unto

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unto thee. I will fing unto the Lord as long as I live; I will fing praises unto my God, while I have my being. My meditation of him shall be sweet, I will be glad in the Lord.

Accept, O most merciful Father, of these thankful acknowledgments; which go not forth out of Psal, 17. 2.

feignedlips. And be pleaf-

fuch a lasting and fresh remembrance of thy great mercies in my heart; that I may always be joyful in thee, and speak good of thy name, and trust in thee at all times, and still ery unto thee, O God most high, who performest all things for me. Make me studious likewise, and forward to bring forth all thesruits of righteousness, throughout the whole course of my life; which may witness the truth and sincerity of my thankfulness to thee.

O that I may never be less earnest and fervent in the return of obedience, than I have been in desires and prayers to receive thy blessing! Dis-

T 2 pose

pose me to have a kind and tender care of this Infant which thou hast committed to my charge. Make me willing to undergo, to the utmost of my power, the pains that accompany its education. Let not the love of ease and pleasure breed in me an averseness to any duty, to which both Nature and Religion incline me: or give me grace, by sober thoughts, and a thankful remembrance of the latepain from which thou hast delivered me, to overcome it.

Especially endue me with the greatest love to its precious and immortal soul. And help me so to grow and encrease in Christian wisdom and goodness, that I may be able to instruct it when it is capable, in the fear of our Lord; and by meek and gentle admonitions, together with a good example in all things, to win it to the love of true godliness. Or if thou art pleased to take it from me, who deserve not the least of thy mercies; Lord, so moderate my affections, ir ft e f ye

ons, and bring them in subjection to thee, that I may not undutifully repine at thy providence: but in an humble adoration of thy unsearchable wisdom, and a stedfast considence of thy good-will towards me, resign it unto thee, from whom I received it.

And I also beseech thy Divine goodness, when thou shalt restore me to the publick affemblies of thy People again, to give me grace to receive that mercy with exceeding joy. Prepare my heart with an enlarged a lection to offer unto thee not only the facrifice of praise, giving thanks unto thy name; but all other oblations which ought to accompany fuch addreffes to thy glorious Majesty. That they may be but an earnest of my future diligence and zeal in thy Divine Service, and of my readiness to do good, and communicate unto others: whereby I may lay up in 1. Tim. 6. 19. store for my self a good foundation against the time to come that

T 3

1 may lay hold on eternal life, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Prayer for good success in some extraordinary business.

Lmighty and most merciful Father, the supreme Governour the whole World: who disposest and orderest all things in heaven and earth with admirable judgment; and canst not possibly err in what thou doest; nor fail of what thou designest. I adore in the humblest reverence of my foul, thy most glorious Majesty; thy eternal Power, Holiness, Goodness and Truth, which are all beyond my comprehension. And more particularly I adore thy unspotted Justice, and all-seeing Wisdom, which penetrates into the deepest fecrets, and spies out all the ways of the

in some extraordinary business. 415.

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I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not in himself: it jer. 10.23. is not in man that walk-trov. 16. 9. eth to direct his steps.

The success of all our Tob. 4. 19.

counsels and actions de-

pends on thy pleasure; and when we have devised the way we intend to go, thou givest it what issue seems good in thine eyes. There are many devites in a man's heart; nevertheless thy counsel, O Lord, that shall stand. I will therefore bless thee, O Lord, my God, alway, and desire of thee that my ways may be directed, and that all my paths and counsels may prosper: for thou thy self givest all good things, and thou humblest whom thou wilt, and as thou wilt.

Accordingly I now most earnestly recommend my self, and all my concerns to thee; who hast bid me in all my ways ac-

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knowledge thee, and thou wilt direct my paths. I trust in thy wise and good providence with all my heart, and lean not unto mine own understanding. I hope in thy mercy that thou wilt so direct, assist and prosper all my thoughts, designs and endeavours, that they may attain their desired end.

And above all things, I desire that I may have grace to design and seek for nothing but what is just and honest, pious and charitable, praise worthy and of good report. Bless me, good Lord, with that integrity of heart, in which thou so much delightest: and then bless me with wisdom and good understanding in all my assairs, that I may guide them with discretion. For it is thou

wisd.7.15,16. that leadest into wisdom,
9. 10. and directest the wise. In

Ecclus.23.1.5. thy hand are both we and
our words: all wisdom al-

fo and knowledge of workmanship. Leave me not therefore; O Lord, Father ther and Governour of all my whole life, leave me not to my self alone: but fend out thy wisdom from the throne of thy glory, that being present, she may labour with me. And turn away from me vain hopes. Endue me also with a patient, contented and untroubled spirit, that I may wait on thee as long as thou pleasest: and whatsoever the event shall be, enable me to rejoyce in thee as my portion, and to rest perfectly satisfied in thy love, and in the assured hope of good things in the other world.

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I humbly recommend likewise to thy merciful guidance, all those with whom I have intrusted any of my concerns; that they may manage all their undertakings with skill and prudence, justice and sidelity; and do for me, as they would that I or others should do for them. Make us all ever mindful, that all Ecclus. 17. 19. Ephes. 3. 20. Rom. 16. 25. Defore thee, and thy eyes

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are

are continually upon our ways; that we may never dare to do any thing but what thou approvest, and of which we may give a comfortable account, at the great Day of Judgment.

Now unto him that is of power to do for me exceeding abundantly above all that I ask or think, to God only wife, be glory-through Jesus Christ for ever, Amen.

A Prayer when one intends to live Un-

Lord, the lover of souls; for whom they were made, and in whom alone they can be happy.

There is none I have in heaven but thee, nor on earth that I desire besides thee. Who art the perfection of wisdom, power and goodness; and the sountain of all

all the good that is in us. Thou art able to raise us to what degree of wisdom, strength and goodness thou pleasest: and hast promised us thine affiftance to make us like unto thee; and affored us we shall be immortally bleffed, by a glorious participation of thee. Thou drawest us fo mightily, that we have no power to refift thee; when our minds turn themselves towards thee, and reflect upon thy most excellent Nature, which discovers it felf, in all the bounty to us, and the rest of thy creatures.

We cannot but love thee, when we think of thee; and when we love thee, we cannot but again think of thee, that we may have the pleasure still of loving thee more. O fix my mind, I befeech thee, in a more stedfast contemplation of thee, and of all thy gracious communications to me, that I may spend my days delightfully in a perpetual meditation of thy mercies, which I have received in fuch abundance from thee! There

420 A Proger for one that intends

There is nothing I know more natural and more easie, than to think of the kindnesses of those that love us; especially theirs to whom we bear a mutual love. O how great, how free and undeserved is thy love to us! What infinite reason is there that we should love thee, with all our heart, and with all our foul, and with all our strength? Inspire me, O God, with such a lively sense of thy good-ness in my creation, and ever since, both to my foul and to my body, that I may ever preserve a sweet and grateful remembrance of it; and may feel it provoking me daily to commemorate thy loving kindness, with the most ardent love of thee, my most bountiful Benefactor. O that I could love thee, in every thing that I fee and enjoy! being led by it to the thoughts of thy admirable wisdom, which aftonishes us in the least of thw creatures; and of thy matchless goodness, which hath provided such variety of pleasures for all our senses. Possess

Possess me with a great and strong admiration of the excellency of wifdom; that I may be a lover of her beauty, and seek her out Wild. 8. 2,3,9 from my youth; desiring to marry her to my self. For thou the Lord. of all things, thy felf, lovest her: And therefore I purpose to take her to live with me; knowing that she will be a counseller of good things, and a comfort in cares and grief. But especially over-power myheart with a strong and lafting fense of thy exceeding abundant kindness in Christ Jesus; in whom thou hast chosen me, Ephef. 1. 4, 8. that I should be holy, and without blame before thee in love. Let me never think of that, but with fuch great transports of love, and joy, and thankfulness unto thee, as may make me then forget all other things. And make me to understand more and more how thy love in him, bath a bounded towards us in all wisdom and prudence. That fo I may be the more moved to admire it, and delight to medi-

meditate upon it, and be ftill fearching into those treasures of thy Wisdom, and unsearchable riches of thy

Grace; till I come to be Ephef. 3. 19. filled with all the fulness.

of thee, my God.

Translate all my affections from these lower objects, to him that is fairer than the children of Pfal. 45. 2. men; who loved me for much as to dye for me; who is rifen again, and fits at thy right hand in incomparable Majesty and Glory. Raise up my thoughts as high as that heavenly place where he is, and where I hope one day to be; equal to the Angels, who neither marry; Lak. 20. 16. nor are given in marriage.

Help me to begin that happy state in feparating my felf frequently from all this World, and joyning with that bleffed company above, in praising thee, and giving thanks unto thee, whose mercies are great, and endure: for ever.

And when I am about any other employemployment; help me chearfully to attend it; and with a willing mind to perform the duties belonging to it. Possessme with such an hatred of idleness and sloth, that I may always be busied about some good or innocent thing. Especially dispose me to exercise my self in works of mercy and charity; and to take all opportunities of doing good, to the bodies or sould of man Maighbours.

fouls of my Neighbours.

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Endue me with prudence and difcretion in the choice of my company and friends: and give me wisdom to improve their society to the best purposes. Make my mind more heavenly: and when any thoughts contrary to my inclinations and resolutions arise in me, turn them immediately to thy self, and my blessed Saviour. Open my eyes to behold the things that are not seen: And put out the spleador of all those things that dazle our eyes here, by the appearance of a brighter and more glorious good. Which may raise my designs higher than 424 A Prayer for one that intends

than this world; and make all my passions and affections more equal and moderate; my discourse more prositable; my behaviour more humble; modest, and such as becometh Saints; and all my actions more conformable to thy will, and more exemplary to those whom I converse withal. The Thes. 1.23. very God of peace fanctisse me wholly; and preserve my whole spirit, and soul, and body blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ!

O that my love to any thing here may not turn into wantonness and folly; nor my joy and chearfulness, into lightness and vanity; nor my seriousness or forrow into melancholy and discontent; nor my just anger, into hatred and contention; nor industry in my business into carefulness, distrust and earthliness of mind; nor my discretion and prudence into craft,

dissembling and deceit!

Dispose my heart, that I may so mind heavenly things, as to be very humble and lowly in my own eyes;

and.

and be fo humble and fensible of my own unworthiness and weakness, as to make my addresses to thee continually, with the greater earnestness, for thy merciful help and fupply. Teach me so to pray and call upon thee, as to labour and strive my self; and fo to labour and run, that I may obtain. Let faith in thy good providence and precious promifes be my comfort; and hope of thy glory make me rejoyce, and a great love to thee make me unwearied, and fill me with the confolations of the Holy Ghoft. O that my Religion may become my Nature; fo that it may not be my burden or trouble: and help me fo to look upon it as my duty, as withal to account it my honour, privilege and happiness.

O that I may never defire any thing but to be so pure as thou wouldst have me; and to enjoy those rewards of holiness, which thou canst and wilt bestow upon me. This is the summ of my defires; that what soever I do

may

may please thee, and whatsoever thou dost may be pleasing to me. Lord, hear me, and answer me graciously. And if I shall see any cause hereafter to change my condition, preserve in me an unchangeable love to thee ahove all things. That still I may please thee, and be acceptable in thy fight; delighting my felf in wifdom, and re-Wild. 8. 16. posing my felf with ber; for ber conversation bath no bitterness, and to live with ber bath no forrow, but minth and joy. In which happiness, the Lord youch safe to keep me, whatever my condition be, for Jesus his sake. To whom with thee, O Father, and thy bleffed Spirit be everlasting praises. Amen.

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O that I may never decreasor think

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holizels, which thou can't and with below upon me. This is the though the delicest start what become litera A shorter to be added at any time to o-

Bleffed Jesus; who camest down from heaven in the most familiar manner to us; and keptst thy felf unspotted from the world, while thou hadst the most free conversation in it. I commend my felf to thy gracious protection, guidance and bleffing: beseeching thee to preserve me baly both in body and spirit, while I live among Men, and am not retired from them.

I defire chiefly to care for those phings that belong to thee Cor. 7. 32 aur Lord, how I may please 100. 7. 32

without distraction: Favour therefore, I humbly entreat thee, these
pious inclinations. I know how weak
our nature is; and therefore the more
earnestly desire thee to keep my heart
stedsaft in this purpose, if thou seest
it best for me. Help me to employ

my thoughts chearfully and constantly in heavenly things. Fill me with great devotion to thee. That when I am employed in other affairs, and am in other company, they may not draw my heart too strongly to them: but I may still remain fixed in what I have decreed; to be freed from all other cares, that I may more entirely serve thee.

Give thy holy Angels a special charge of me. Let thy blessed spirit powerfully assist me. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity. Incline me alway to adorn my self in modest apparel with shame-

frudying rather to approve my felf to thee in good works, than to appear beautiful before men.

Be thou my Love, my Satisfaction, my Joy, my hearts delight. Never absent thy self from me, nor leave me to follow any of my own passions: but conduct me pure and undefiled to the company of those blessed Virgins

and

and holy ones, who reign with thee for ever. Amen, Lord Jesus.

I pray God my whole spirit, and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, 1 Thes. 5.23.

A Prayer when there are any thoughts of changing that condition, and deliberations about Marriage.

O Lord, my most gracious and merciful Father; of whose tender care and good providence I have had so long and abundant experience that I should be extreamly ungrateful if I should not acknowledge thee, and love thee, and trust in thee, and upon all occasions call upon thee, and seek thy favour for ever. There hath no day passed since I came into the world, but it hath brought along with

with it many tokens of thy love, which thou art still renewing in every moment of my life. By thee I have been carried through all the dangers of infancy and child-hood, unto this age of understanding and reason. And thou hast blessed me many ways fince that time; especially with some remembrance and sense of thy self, from whom I came, and on whom I depend; which I account the greatest benefit of all. Blessed be thy goodness that I am not a perfect stranger to thee : but that thou hast made me to know something of thee, and of thy infinite goodness; who alone art able to make me hap-

py, both here and eternally.

I hope in thee, O my God, that thou will never for lake me, but be my guide even unto death. Pardon, I befeech thee, all the fins and negligences, of which I have been at any time guilty: and let them not hinder the continuance of thy mercy and favour towards me, on which all the comfort

comfort of my life depends. Leave me not to my felf, and the weakness of my own counsels; especially now, in the greatest turn and change of my life: but vouchfase to direct my thoughts, and all the motions of my heart aright, to that which will be most prostable for me, and conduce every way to my future comfort and satisfaction.

Lead me in the way wherein I shall go; and guide me for thy Name's sake. Endue me with such a serious, considerate and discerning spirit, that I may not follow the enticements of any fading and perishing good: but cleave to that which is unchangeable, and never dies. Favour, thou hast taught me, is deceitful, and beauty is vain; but one that feareth the Lord shall Prov. 31. 30. be praised. O possess my heart with an holy fear of thee; that nothing

an holy fear of thee; that nothing may appear so amiable in mine eyes, as true Religion, Piety and Vertue! Make me in love with the beauties of

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Wildom, (for thou lovest none, but him that dwelleth with wisdom, to be al-

lied unto which is immortality; and great pleasure, I know, it is, to have her friendship) and with the beauties of sobriety, meekness, mercifulness, humility, and all those things which are the image of thy goodness. That being inclined by these in my choice, I may find a fit person to be the guide of my youth [or an help meet for me] the delight of mine eyes; in whose society I may enjoy a constant relies, ease and pleasure, and be set forward thereby in the way to heaven.

Affiff me, I befeech thee, in all my deliberations about this change; that I may foberly weigh every thing which is offered to my thoughts. And after all the dangers which, by thy goodness, I have escaped, I may not be so unhappy now, as to fall into the saddest of all; by the strength of sancy, by rashness and unadvisedness of mind, or the violence and unruliness

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of any passion: but may dispose of my affections to a person worthy of them. Help me, blessed Lord, to make so wise a choice, that I may ne-

ver repent of it afterward.

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Direct and govern likewise the minds and hearts of all those [Parents or Friends that transact any thing on my behalf. That they may have a respect chiefly to those things which endure for ever: and fettle me there, where I may most gloriste thee, and do most good, and encrease in wifdom and virtue, and live in peace, chearfulness and contentment to the end of my days. Which mercies. and all others, that thou feeft requifite for me, I most humbly beg of thee, for Jesus Christ his fake, the Lord of peace; to whom, with thy felf, and good Spirit, I defire to give, as is most due, eternal praises, Amen.

A Prayer when a person is about to enter into the state of Marriage; [and may serve for any other new condition of life.]

Lord, the Guide and Director, the helper and comforter of all those that seek thee, and depend upon thee with their whole heart. In a serious sense that nothing can make me happy without thy love, savour and blessing, I humbly cast down my self before thy Divine Majesty; imploring thy gracious presence with me, to instruct, govern and affist me in that condition, into which, under the conduct and protection of thy good providence, I am about to enter.

Great and many have been thy mercies towards me hitherto, ever fince I was taken by thee out of my mothers womb. Thou hast nourished and clothed me: Thou hast brought me up to some knowledge of thee and

of the duty I owe thee: thou halt shown me the path of life, and prevented me early with thy Grace, to dispose my heart to walk in it. And, though I have not made, I most forrowfully confess, such returns unto thee as I ought to have done, yet it is some comfort to me, to feel my heart inclined and resolved to be more thankful and dutiful hereaster; and to pass the remaining part of my sojourning here in thy fear and love, and stedsaft obedience.

Pardon me therefore, O most merciful Father, according to thy promises made in Christ Jesus, to penitent finners. And vouchsafe me the grace of thy holy Spirit, to lead me to a clear and full understanding of all the duties that belong to the state and relations in which I have now chosen to serve thee. Endue me with a sincere and hearty affection to them; and enable me carefully to perform them with a willing mind, & a chearful unwearied spirit, as long as thou

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nd of thinkest sit to continue me in that condition of life. Bless me with a wise and observant heart, to discern and mark the nature and dispositions of those to whom I shall be joyned, in any bonds of love or duty: That I may delight to please them to the utmost of my power; and study their content and satisfaction; and bear with their infirmities; and chuse the sittest opportunities to do them good, and amend what is amiss in them.

Free us all, who shall stand related to each other, from all peevishness and unreasonable passions: let no mistake or causses jealousie spoil the entireness of our affection: endue us with great purity of heart, and a chaste conversation: And bestow upon us such meek, sweet, and compliant dispositions, that this may not prove a state of temptation and forrow, but of Godliness and holiness, to our mutual joy and happiness.

Make us ever mindful of the Covenant wherein we fland engaged to each other; especially of that sacred Vow wherein we ftand bound to thee, by our being baptized into the Name of Jesus Christ; that we may faithfully keep and perform it. Tye us so fast together in unity of spirit, that we may have the same common cares; and bear one anothers burdens; and endeavour to encrease each others joys, and lighten each others forrows; and in all the changes and alterations of our condition we may religiously preserve an immutable love unto and delight in each other, to the end of our days.

Especially help us to stir up oneanother to the love of thee, and our bleffed Saviour; and to do all good offices to our Neighbours: that after we have enjoyed the comfort of a fweet fociety, and been a bleffing to all that are near unto us; we may finally part in peace, and rest in a good hope to dwell together for ever, in happy friendship with thee, and with our Lord and all the holy ones, Amen, Amen.

A Prayer of Parents for their Children when they are grown up to some understanding.

ous Majesty, O Lord most high: we acknowledge thy infinite goodness, that thou art pleased to give us leave to call thee Father, who art the Possessor of Heaven and of Earth. We thank thee for thy most tender care over us eversince we were born. More especially for the knowledge thou hast given us of thy great love in Jesus Christ: And that thou hast so timely prevented us with thy grace; and inclined our hearts to thy fear, and love, and service.

Vouchfafe, we befeech thee, O most merciful Father, to take our Children also (which we have already dedicated unto thee, and commended to thy care) into the protection and guidance of the same gracious providence, which hath been so watchful over us. Thou knowest the great weakness of our nature; how foolish and inconfiderate we are (especially in our younger years;) how violent in our passions; how apt to listen to temptations, and easie to be seduced by them; how ready to flatter and abuse our selves with vain hopes; and how unwilling to believe what is contrary to our defires. And therefore we the more earnestly implore thy bleffing upon our endeavours, to feafon their minds betime with a Religious fense of thee their Creator, and of their duty which they owe thee, and of that good in which their true happinels lies, the choice of he all nicolinant

And we befeech thee likewise to excite our hearts to the greater diligence and thoughtfulness and care, to imitate thy fatherly love towards our selves; by watching over them to do them good, and to train them up in thy sear. Endue us with wisdom and prudence to give them wholsome and seasonable instructions and dif-

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pose their hearts to receive and remember them. Help us to govern exactly all our affections and passions; that we may neither embolden them to any thing that is evil by too much indulgence, nordiscourage them in their duty by too much severity: But be examples of godliness and virtue to them, by a sober, grave, gentle, humble and devout behaviour and conversation.

Work in them a great reverence to all their Governours, Teachers, and spiritual Pastors; and bless their godly admonitions to them, that they may follow and obey them. Direct us also in the choice of fit persons to assist us in their Education; and in the choice of fit employments for them; whereby they may prove useful and profitable members of Church and State.

have escaped the dangers of infancy and childhood. Good Lord, preserve them from all the evil and mischief chief to which the rashness and indiscretion of youth may betray them. And fortisie their minds against the power of all allurements to sin; that we may live to see them thy dutiful and obedient children, and may leave the world in hope that they will continue so, unto their lives end.

Or if thou takest us away before they come to their full age, we commend them with the more ardent affection to thy never-failing mercy and compassion. O thou who art the Fa-

their God, and let them find mercy with thee, ac-

cording to thy word. Dispose of them so, that by loving and careful Governours, holy examples, innocent and good company, pious and discreet counsels, with the help of thy divine grace, they may ever be secured in their duty, and sollow after us to eternal life; through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Tolks walth unto now Parents Love

incle the collinels and has A Short Prayer for the afe of a little · And fortific their runds a chiral both

nd of the sector of the to to vote

O Lord, my most loving Saviour and merciful Redeemer; who commandedit that the little children should come unto thee, and didst take them up in thine arms, lay thy hands. upon them, and blefs them . Look graciously upon me, I humbly befeech thee, and bless me; who am one of thy children, dedicated to thy fervice. Pity the weakness of my tender age, and prevent me betimes with thy grace. Make me feriously to remember my Creator in the days. of my youth. Endue me with the fear of my God: and make me always mindful of the Vow and Promife that was made in my name, when I was baptized; to forfake the Devil and all his works, to believe in God and to ferve bim.

Make me dutiful (as thou O Lord Jefus wast) unto my Parents [loving

to my Brethren and Sisters] obedient to my Instructors thankful for the good counsel of my Friends: humble and reverent to my betters; and meek and gentle to all men. That as I grow in years, so I may grow in wildem and favour with thee, and with all those blos me thy child, whoog era oftw

Preferve me from all dangers; ler thy good Angels be my keepers and defenders; and guide me by thy holy Spirit; that the longer I live, the better I may be: to the comfort of my Parents, the honour and glory of my God, and my own happiness, here and for ever. Amen.

o Saviour Christ tolus, he Lond. &

Our Father, &c. Dasm bas Lebanin those who are good; for the taker of to my Brethren and Siferi] obedieur

of Properties Child

HEavenly Father, who despisest nothing that thou hast made, But takest care of the Beasts of the Earth, and of the Fowls of the Air: bless me thy child, whom thou haft made in thy Image, and adopted for thy own by thy grace in Christ. Rreferve me this day from all evil, both in foul and body. Give me what thou foot good for me. Especially an heart to know thee early, to be thankful to thee, to love thee, and to do thy will, as well as I amable. Bless my Father and my Mother, and all my friends: and make me a follower of those who are good; for the fake of, my Saviour Christ Jesus the Lord Amen

Our Father, &c.

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A Prayer for the use of a Child that hath

Charles who never failest those that seek thee: but givest to the beast his food, and to plat 147.9 the young ravens which cry. I cast my self upon thy infinite goodness, with whom the fatherless have been wont to find mercy. Be thou, O Lord, Father and God of my life, a most Ecclus 23.4 merciful and gracious. Father unto me: and provide what thou sees in thy wisdom, to be necessary for me.

Especially, bestow upon me some faithful friend that will admonish me, and take care of my soul, to bring me up religiously in the sear of thee my God. Preserve me from all distrust of thy good providence. Give me savour in the eyes of others, by an humble, submissive and good behaviour towards them. Make me diligent

gent and industrious in some honest calling. And bless my labours and endeavours, that I may not be a burden unto others. But whatsoever my portion be in this world, give me grace to live so piously, justly and soberly, that I may not miss of that incorruptible inheritance, which fadeth not away, reserved in the heavens for us; through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Prayer to be used by a Widow.

GOD, by whose wise providence, which I humbly adore and reverence, I am lest without my dearest companion and guide in this our pilgrimage; and thereby deprived of the sweetest comfort of life: behold the desolate and forrowful estate of thy poor hand-maid, who supplicates thy tender mercy and compassion passion towards her. Comfort me, good Lord, with a delightful sense of thy Divine Presence with me; and draw my heart the nearer to thee, in holy love and devout affection, and a lively hope that thou wilt never leave me nor forsake me.

Fought to thank thee at all times, for the many tokens of thy love towards me; and particularly for lending me this bleffing fo long, the value of which I now feel, by the want I am in of its support. Pardon me, I befeech thee, that I have not been for thankful for it, and the rest of thy mercies, as Fought: nor fo carefully improved them, as I might have done. O take not away thy loving kindness. from me in displeasure. But vouchsafe. still the continuance of thy favour towards me; especially the support of thy Divine Grace by the power of the Holy Ghost, to enable me to bear this affliction with an humble, meek and patient spirit. I servet no reo a

Moderate all my passions. Free me-

reon:

from all discontented and distrustful thoughts. Help me to cast all my care on thee, who relievest the father-less and widow, and careft even for the strangers. Eix my mind upon thy love in the Lord Jesus; in whom then wouldst

Lord Jesus; in whom then wouldst have us to rejoyce always. List up my thoughts to those heavenly enjoyments in that blessed place where he is; [to which I hope my husband is departed.] And help me to follow after him with all diligence in a pure, grave and godly conversation; and by a careful education of my Children, to endeavour that they may be also with us in that glory.

Let thy bleffing ever rest upon them. And now that they are left to me alone, give me so much the more wisdom to instruct and govern them aright; and so much the more love to them, and tender affection to their good and welfare. Make them to be a comfort for me in my Widow-hood by their encrease in godlines; that

we

we may chearfully ferve thee together, in Prayers, and Thankfgivings, and reading of thy holy Word, and Communion with our bleffed Saviour, and all other actions of a Christian life. Prepare us for whatfoever condition it is, into which thou shalt be pleased to bring us; that neither sulness nor poverty, honour nor reproaches, health nor sickness, may ever separate us from thy love in Christ Jesus: but we may persevere in patient obedience to thee, till we receive that crown of life which he hath promised to them that love thee. Amen.

A Prayer for the use of a poor Servant.

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O Lord most high; who art the Maker of the rich and of the poor; with Prov. 22.27 whom there is no respect of persons:

Look graciously upon me, I humbly befeech thee, who here cast down my felf before thee; acknowledging thy Soveraign power over all, and thy wife providence which hath disposed all things into feveral ranks and orders, for their mutual help and benefit. I humbly submit to the state and condition wherein thou haft been pleafed to place me, below many others. I thank thee that I live; and that I live in health; and have strength of body; (great and invaluable bleffings!) and that I have fo much liberty as to make my requests unto thee, and acknowledge thy mercies; and that I have any hope thou wilt never cease to do me good, till thou hast crowned all thy mercies in eternal life.

Good Lord, pardon me, if I have at any time murmur'd and repin'd at my condition, or envied the higher estate of other persons. Pardon all my other offences, whatsoever they have been: and vouchsafe but to deliver

ness:

liver me from the bondage of fin, and to make me a Servant of Righteoufness; and I shall not only be contented, but perpetually rejoyce in thy Salvation.

Endue me with a right understanding of my duty in this relation wherein I stand. That according to thy command, I may account those whom I serve worthy of all ho-

please them in all things, Eph. 6, 5, 72

never contradicting, nor

purloyning: but shewing all good fidelity; and with good will and singleness of heart doing service, as to the Lord and not to men. Help me to demean my self so humbly, and what sever I do, to do it Collos 3. 12.

obtain favour in their eyes. Or if they be froward and hard to please, O God, preserve me from all unseemly passions, and disrespectful behaviour towards them. And make me so much the more diligent in their busi-

nefs: remembring that I ferve the Lord Christ, from whom I expect to receive

the reward of the inheritance.

If thou art pleased any other way to afflict me, with sickness or pains in my body, which may hinder my labour and cast me into poverty, Lord, still strengthen my faith and considence in thee. And help me to bear it with a patient mind; looking unto Jesus, who took upon him the form of a Servant, and became poor, and suffered much for our sake: but now is therefore highly exalted to succour and comfort all those that follow after him contentedly in well doing. In his Name and Words I recommend my self unto thy mercy, saying,

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Our Father, &c.

A Countrey-man's Prayer for fruitful Seasons.

God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, who canfest the grasto grow for the cattel, Ffal. 104. 14. and herb for the service of 73. 10. man: who bringest forth food out of the earth, and bleffest the fringing thereof. Be pleased graciously to look down from Deut. 26. 15. thy boly habitation, from heaven, upon us thy people, and upon the land wherein we dwell. That both it may become fruitful, and yield its increase; and we also may grow in all wisdom and goodness, and bring forth plenteoully the fruit of good works; to the honour and praise of thy Name, and to our perpetual comfort, both in this world, and in the world to come, through Christ Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

O God, who for our unthankfulness and abuse of thy blessings, art justly displeased at us; and dost now punish us [with the want of

* Or with immoderate showres. whereby we are in danger to lose the labour of our hands: Be pleased to

accept of our unfeigned repentance, and mercifully to forgive the fins of

thy People.

Visit the earth again, and water it;

* In a time of immoderate rais.
Joel 2.17.

Joel 2.17.

Ffal. 104. 30.

Joel 1.11.

clouds drop fatness on it [or, * let not the floods of water overflow us, nor the feed be rotten under the clod: but] As the fields now languish, and joy is withered away from the fons of men: So let thy goodness renew the face

of the earth, and make the pastures and the fields to shout for Joy, and

Lord, hear the cry of the poor and needy. Let it suffice that we eat our bread in the sweat of our brows: but do not punish us with scarcity of bread, which is the staff and support of our life. Have pity upon our perpetual labour and toil, and let us reap the fruit of it: for Jesus Christ his sake, who was made a curse for us; that we might inherit a blessial. It is said to him, with thee, O Father of mercies, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour, glory and praise, both now and for ever. Amen.

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and all other his benefits." Let

Fater.

AThanksgiving for a good Harvest.

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E praise thee, O God, who hast opened to us thy good Treasure: and given us rain Deut. 28.12. from heaven and fruitfal seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. Blessed be God for the plenty wherewith he hath loadned the earth; and for the fair weather he hath fent us, that we might gather it into our barns. He maketh graß to grow Pfal. 147. 8.9, upon the mountains . He giveth to the beast his food; and he filleth us with the finest of the wheat. He watereth the Ifa. 55.10. earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give feed to the sower, and bread to the

To him therefore be the praise, for these and all other his benefits. Let all the world rejoyce and be glad in him; who prepares a table for us, and satisfies satisfies our mouths with good things, and makes our Cup to run over. O that our hearts may even overflow with love and thankfulness to him. O that we may never forget nor abuse his goodness, but by a lober, charitable and pious use of these his blesfings, we may be made fit for the continual increase of them; till they all conclude in eternal life. Which I most humbly crave for the sake of Christ Jesus, our blessed Lord and Saviour; to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghoft (from whose bounteous love we receive all good things) be all honour, and praise, and hearty obedience both now and elvermore. Amen.

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A Prayer for the use of a Judge, or a ther Magistrate.

God, the Supreme Lord and Governour of the world; who hast made all things with Wifd. 9. 1, 2; thy word; and ordained 3, ℃€. man through thy wisdom that he should have dominion over the creatures, and order the world according to equity and righteousness, and execute judgment with an upright heart. Thou hast chosen me to be a Minister of thy Kingdom, and a Judge of thy Som and thy Daughters. But who is fit of himself alone, to discharge so greats trust? Though a man be never so perfeet, yet if thy wisdom be not with him, he shall be nothing regarded. I humbly therefore address my fell

to thee, the Father of lights, the fountain of every good gift, by whom Princes rule, and Nobles,

that thou wilt bestow upon me a wise

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and understanding spirit, to enable mealways to discern exactly between good and evil, and to pronounce a righteous sentence in the most per-

plexed cases.

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More especially, I beseech thee, to endue me with fuch an honest and upright mind, that nothing in the world may ever tempt me from my integrity. O that mine eyes may never be blinded by gifts; nor mine heart turn aside to follow after rewards. Let no love towards Friends, or hatred towards Enemies; no fear of those who are mighty, or defire of popular applause in the least corrupt my judgment to decree unrighteously. But remembring thine all-seeing eye, who standest in the congregation of the mighty, and judgest among the Gods, I may always proceed uprightly and regard the person of no man in judgment.

Preserve in me, O God, this pious Resolution, by preserving in me a constant sense, that thou art higher than the highest; and wilt judge al men, without any respect of persons, according to their works. O that I may ever have the heart to dispense justice unto others with such impartiality, as I expect to find my self, when I appear before thy dreadful Tribunal.

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Fill me with zeal and courage to punish vice and wickedness, though never so bold and befriended: and to defend and maintain thy true Religion and godliness, though never fo much discountenanced and deserted That being true and faithful to the trust thou hast reposed in me, I may receive a favourable sentence from thy Majesty, when thou shalt come to judge the world in righteousness, by that Great Lord whom thou hast ordained, Christ Jesus the righteous, To whom with thee, O Father, and the Holy Ghost, One Eternal only Wise God, be Glory and Majesty, Dominion and Power, both now and for ever. Amen. Anath and mafinos

A Prayer of a poor Prisoner for Debt.

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God, who art present to us in all places, and haft regard to the fighs and groans of the miferable, who humbly implore thy pity and compassion towards them: Vouchfafe to look graciously upon thy afflicted fervant in this place; which is most desolate and comfortless, unless the light of thy countenance shine upon me. I confess that I have too much abused the liberty which I formerly enjoyed; and did not so carefully improve, as I ought to have done, those happy opportunities, which therewith were put into my hands. Many ways, I am sensible I'have offended thy Divine Majesty*; for which ledge the par-I am heartily forry; and tieulars. finitely indebted to thy goodness, that I am not plunged into the depth of X 3 mifery,

misery to bewail my sins in the bottomless Pit.

I thank thee, O Lord, with all my foul that I am not shut up in the place of outer darkness; and that I have any hope to obtain the benefit of the redemption, which is in Christ Jesus. In whose Name I beseech thee to pardon me; and likewise to fanctifie these straits wherein I lye, to the freeing my foul from the bond of all iniquity, and the restoring me to the glorious liberty of thy children Help me feriously to follow the direction of thy Providence in this reftraint; and now that I am fo much alone by my felf, to descend into my own heart, to fearch and try my ways and unfeignedly to turn to thee, my God.

Enlarge my spirit more than ever now that my body is confined, in servent Prayer for thy Divine Grace, and in chearful Thanksgivings for the innumerable benefits that I have received from thy bounty, and in ten-

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der pity and commiseration of the sad condition of all distressed people. And be pleased to touch the hearts of my Creditors also, with a sense of my miferies: incline them to accept of what I am able to pay, and make me wil-ling conscientiously to satisfie them to

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the utmost of my power.

In the mean time bestow upon me the bleffing of a contented spirit? Help me patiently to endure the in-conveniences of this place. And preferve me from the danger of all the temptations, which I meet with in it: especially from seeking a remedy of my forrows, in the pleasures of intemperance, or evil company, or any prophane mirth whatfoever. Be thou my comfort; O God, my exceeding joy; and the full fatisfaction of my foul in all conditions.

And when thou art pleased to deliver me from this place, and restore me again to my defired freedom: O Lord, make me ever mindful of the vows, wherein I am now forward to

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464 A Prayer of a Prisoner, &c.

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bind my self. Dispose my heart there to be so sensibly affected, with the least of those mercies, which formerly I have little regarded; that I may never forget to praise thee even for the benefit of a sweeter Air than now I enjoy, and to acknowledge thee in the night season upon my bed, and to thank thee for the coursest food; and especially I may rejoyce to go again into the great Congregation to praise thee with the most ardent love for all spiritual blessings in Christ Je sus.

Preserve in me also a grateful remembrance of the kindness of my Friends and Neighbours: especially of those persons to whom I stand particularly indebted, when by their charity I shall be released. And whatsoever loss they sustain by my poverty, good Lord, make it up abundantly to them and theirs, out of thy rich grace and mercy. Requite their lovewith plenty and prosperity in this world; and give them the reward he

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of eternal life and glory in the world to come; through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Prayer of a great Malefactor in Prison.

Most holy and righteous Judge of the whole world; give a finful and miserable wretch leave to prostrate himself before the Throne of thy Grace, and implore that mercy which formerly I have despised or abused. I am not worthy, I confess, to lift up my eyes towards Heaven; and it becomes me in the greatest dejection of spirit to sigh and groan under the load of my fins: which have been so great and many, so bold, so presumptuous and shameless, that when with an awakened mind I reflect upon them, I am ready to fink into Hell, and utterly despair of any mercy.

Prov. 5. 12,13. O God, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof? and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that admonished me? How swift have my feet been to run into evil? and how backward and averse have I been to any thing that is good? O the injuries which have done my Neighbours! the abuse of my self, and of thy good creatures!

* Aftere lot him reckon up the blasphemy, de-bauchery, and violence that be bath been guilty of.

The prophane contempt or neglect of thee and the duties of thy worship and service! * The remembrance of all this is dreadful, the burden of it is intolerable.

How shall I appear before thee, at whose rebuke the Mountains quake since I cannot think of appearing before an earthly Judge without shame and affrightment of spirit? O Lord, work in me a greater dread of thee, with a greater shame and confusion of face; now that I am in thy presence.

For which end, be pleafed to reprefent unto me effectually, the wickedness, the baseness and vileness of all my evil doings, as well as the guilt and just desert of them. O that I could hate and abhor them, more than that death,* which I expect shortly to suffer * or punish

for them! Bestow on me that ingenuous and god-

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* Or punish ment; when the crime is less.

ly forrow which worketh repentance, and unfeigned purposes of amendment of life. They come too late indeed, I may justly think, to find acceptance with thee: and therefore, not without fear and trembling, and a great sense of my undeservings, I look up unto thee; acknowledging thy infinite goodness, if thou wilt vouchsafe but the smallest hope of mercy.

Mercy, mercy, good Lord: cast me not quite out of thy sight, for Jesus Christ his sake, who gave him'e's for us to redeem us from all iniquity. It is the beginning of some mercy,

and

and an earnest, I hope, of more, that thou hast made me sensible of mine offences; and that thou hast wrought in me a resolution to forsake them. and fome love to a godly, fober and righteous life. Help me to manifelt the fincerity and uprightness of my foul in these resolutions, as much as I am able; by giving thee hearty thanks that the hand of justice hath overtaken and laid hold upon me, and put a stop to the further mischief which I might have committed; and by making a free and open confession of my crimes, and taking the shame which belongs to me, before others; and by acknowledging that I am unworthy to live; and by earnest admonishments to all, to be warned by my example, and to cease betimes to do evil, and learn to do well.

Q God, that I could glorifie thee a little in my latter end, after this manner. And till I come to receive my deserved punishment, help me to spend my time in bewailing my fins; tl

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in humbling my felf before thee for them; in letting my heart against them; in studying and admiring with the greatest affection the holy life of the Lord Jesus; in calling other offenders to repentance, and exhorting them thereby to give thee glory. Deny me not the grace, I befeech thee, to enable me thus to employ my felf; that I may have some taste of thy mercy, and the fear of death may be abated by some hope, that when my foul shall be parted from the body, thou, O bleffed Jesus, wilt receive it, though fo unworthy, into some of the heavenly mansions. Amen, Amen,

Qur Father, &c.

A Souldier's Prayer that fights for his Countrey.

Most mighty Lord, the Foun tain of life and strength, and courage; whom all the hoft of hea ven continually obeys. I prostrate my felf before thee in a religious fenfe, that the fear of thy divine Majesty, pure conscience, and a strong hope and confidence in thy Omnipotent goodness, will give the most assured resolution, valour and boldness to our spirits in all dangers. Most humbly befeeching thee to purge my heart from the love of every thing that is offensive to thee; to pardon all my former fins, negligences and ignorances; and to endue me with the grace of thy holy Spirit strictly to amend and reform my life, according to thy holy Word.

Many temptations, I am fensible, will continually affault me, in this state of life wherein I am engaged.

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But I as earnestly beseech thee to defend me from the power of them, as I desire to be desended from death, and to be covered by thee in the day of battel. O that no covetous desires or greediness of spoil, no ambition or vain glory, no hatred or malice, may push me forward in any enterprize! But give me the victory over these and all other vile affections and passions, before I meet with any other enemy.

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And graciously bless and prosper our arms, for the desence of our Countrey, and the preservation of our Religion, Government, Laws and Liberties. And whilst we fight for the preservation of good Order, Lord, give us all grace to be examples of it our selves. That abhorring all blasphemy and prophaneness, all riot and lasciviousness; and doing violence to

no man, accusing no man falsty, and being content Luk. 3. 14. with our wages, we may adorn both our Cause and our Religion: and whatsoever the issue be, we may have

peace

peace in our own hearts, and living or dying may be accepted with the through Christ Jesus the Prince peace. To whom, &c. Amen.

A Prayer for the use of one that in Aged.

T Adore thee, O Lord of life and I glory; who art from everlasting to everlasting, and changest not : be feeching thee to look graciously up on thy unworthy fervant, whole hope is only in thine infinite mercy; by which my life hath been pro longed to old age, and which is able to make me eternally bleffed. I thank thee for thy inconceivable love in the Lord Jesus, who hath given me fuch a folid and stedfaft ground of hope, to support and strengthen my heart, when all the comforts of this life fail me: and likelik tec ble the

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A Prayer of one that is Aged. 473

likewise praise & magnisie thy bounteous goodness for those innumerable blessings, which time after time, thou hast bestowed upon me, from the beginrectioned up as

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ning of my life till this

present *.

O my God, help me always to foliace my felf, now that the days are comewherein I have no pleasure, with a perpetual remembrance of all thy past loving kindnesses to me; and with those hopes which I have of thy endless love in the other world. And the more my outward senses decay, vouchfase me the quicker and more lively sense in my heart of those good things which thou hast laid up there, for those that sear thee.

Preserve me from all discontented thoughts, and prevish passions. Make me an example unto others of Holines discretion terms

tiness, discretion, temperance, gravity, peaceable-

with the more authority be a teacher

474. A Prayer of one that is Aged.

of good things; and my Frov. 20. 29. hoary head may be a Crown of glory, being found in Eccins. 25. 4. the ways of righteousness.

O how comely a thing is judgment for gray hairs; and for ancient men to know counsel! Pardon me, good Lord that I have made no better improvement of my time and experi ence; for the furnishing of my mind with this wisdom, and with those virtues. Pardon all my negligen

* Remander * And Cil * And fill my heart with a comfortable sense of

Christ Jesus: that having no other burden, but that of age, to oppress my spirit, I may rejoyce in thee as long as I live; and at last lay my self down to rest in peace, and return my soul back unto thee chearfully, when soever thou callest for it; in sure and certain hope of the refurrection of the dead, and of that glory, honour and immortality, which thou haft

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A Prayer of one that is Aged. 475 graciously promised us by thy dear Son, my most blessed Lord and Saviour, Christ Jesus. With whom I desire to live to give thee eternal praises. Amen.

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DEVOTION.

When any person is disposed to spend a day, or part of it, in Devotion: the usual addresses to God in the morning, may be continued in this manner.

Most High and Holy One, who inhabitest eternity, and art God over all, most bleffed for evermore. Happy are they who stand continually in thy presence, and are always admiring, praising, loving, and obeying thee; and rejoycing in thy love and favour towards them! The highest Angels

can desire no greater bliss, than to be thus knit unto thee, and to live in fuch constant union and friendship with thee. An happiness, I am fee fible, that is above our reach, who dwell in houses of clay, and grown under the burden of this flesh: but which we aspire towards, and our uncloathed spirits hope for, in the ther world. And bleffed be thy inf nite goodness, we are encouraged by Christ Jesus to look up unto thee, for the beginning and taste of this happi ness; whilst we remain here below, at this great distance from the throne of thy Glory.

And accordingly I humbly profitrate my felf before thee at this time, befeeching thee in the name of my dear Saviour who gave himfelf for me that thou wilt graciously vouchfalt to inspire me with such delighted thoughts of thee, and such a transforming love unto thee, as may fill my heart with unspeakable joy and satisfaction, whilst I am in thy prefence

fence to admire and adore thee; to praise thy incomprehensible perfections; to acknowledge with all humility my entire dependence on thee; thankfully to remember all the benefits thou hast done unto me; forrowfully to bewail my ungrateful behaviour towards thee; most earnestly to deprecate thy displeasure; to implore thy grace and favour; and to make an absolute surrender of my self to thee, with most hearty Devotion to thy service.

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It is the unfeigned desire of my foul to spend some time in attending wholly to these duties; the better to dispose me to serve thee, in the rest of my life. But alas! O Lord, what am I, or what can I do, unless thou wilt make thy self present to me; and send down thy holy Spirit upon me! My thoughts and affections are exceeding dull and heavy; and they will soon slag and grow weary; unless thou wilt be pleased by thy Almighty Power to raise and bear them

up towards Heaven. I most humbly therefore again beseech thee, in thy infinite mercy, to touch my heart with such a lively sense of thy Divine Majesty, as may fix my wandring thoughts, and compose my tumultuous affections, and stir up my flat and cold desires, and may make me feel the power, and taste the sweetness of every Divine Truth; whilst I read or meditate in thy holy Word, and whilst I pray to thee, and praise thee, and bless thy holy Name.

O that all other things may be shut out of my soul, and that I may be so alone with thee, as to be more apprehensive of thy greatness, and of thy goodness, and of thy purity, and of my near relation to thee, and the innumerable obligations which I lye under to be thine entirely! O that nothing may be so bitter to me as to think, that I have in the least offended thee! and that nothing may be so marvellous in my eyes, as thy exceeding abundant love in the Lord Jesus,

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by whom thou hast encouraged sinners to place their faith and hope in

Help me, O my God, through that new and living way which he hath confecrated, to draw nigh unto thee, and to throw down my felf at thy feet; waiting for a gracious look from thee, refigning my will to thee, strongly uniting it in hearty affection to thy holy Will, and resolving never to rise up any more in opposition to it, but to live in thy love, and in sincere obedience to all thy commands.

So shall my soul bless thee as long as I live; I will alway be speaking good of thy Name, and will shew forth thy praise; as well as I am able,

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to all generations. Amen.

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A Fter this Short address to God for his assistance; consider a while who it is, to whom you have begun to speak. Cast your eyes upon the heaven and the earth, and think of the glon of that Majesty, which fills all things, and cannot be contained in any. Then labour to affect your heart with you own mean, vile and sinful condition For which end examine what particular fins you have been guilty of. Set then down in writing before your eyes, that they may be confessed and lamented And likewise consider in the same man ner, what particular blessings you have received, that they may be most thank fully acknowledged. In all which you may affist your selves and be much es cited, by reading some of the Psalms David, and some part of such pion Books as you are acquainted withal. Af ter which, proceed to express the sense of your heart to God, with the greatel deliberation, in the manner following pausing a while, and ruminating upon what

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what you have faid; at the end of every part thereof.

I.

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Most glorious Majesty of heaven and earth, upon whom all creatures depend for life, and breath, and all things. I most thankfully embrace and delire wifely and faithfully to improve this happy leisure, which thou vouchfafest me of retiring from this world, and making my refort to thee, the Father of mercies, and 2 COE. 1. 3. the God of all comfort. Rev. 5-13. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive from me Pfal. 48. 1. and from the whole Rev. 4. 8. world, bleffing, and ho-1 Sam. 2. 2. nour, and glory, and power; for thou art great, and Pfal. 143.17. greatly to be praised. All 45. 7. the Hoft of Heaven con-Job 37. 33. tinually

I fal. 19. 1. Job 42. 2.

Pfal 135.6.

148. 5, 6.

104. 24,27,

145. 4, 13. 102. 27.

146.2.

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Job 11. 7.

tinually praiseth they and so ought all the Church on earth, saying Holy, holy, holy, Lord Go

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Almighty, which is, whi was, and which is to com There is none holy as the

Lord, for there is none be fides thee. Thou art right

ous in all thy ways, a

holy in all thy works. In lovest righteousness, a

hatest iniquity; and a

excellent in power and judgment, and in plen

of justice. The earth is thine, and the fulness thereof; the world, and the that dwell therein. The heavens clare the glory of God, the sirmamen sheweth his handy-work. The sun, most and stars praise the name of the Lord for he commanded, and they were cruted. He hath also established them survey and ever: He hath made a decrewhich shall not pass. I know, O Lord that thou canst do every thing; and

he

that no thought of thine can be hindred: What seever the Lord pleases, that doth he in heaven and in earth, in the seas, and in all deep places. For he is great, and of great power; his under standing.

is infinite.

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es.

Praised be thy Soveraign goodness and tender mercy, which spreads it felf over all thy works. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all. And they all wait on thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season. That thou givest them they gather: thou openest thy hand, they are filled with good. The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever: the Lord shall rejoyce in his works ... Thou always wast, and ever wilt be the most holy, powerful, wife and good. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and fall declare thy mighty acts. They all passaway like a hadow; but thou art the same, and thy

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thy years shall have no end. For ever O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generation. While I live, therefore, will I prain the Lord: I will sing praises to my God while I have any being. I will prain thee, O Lord, with my whole hear, whose name is exalted above all blessin and praise. For we cannot know the Almighty to perfection: His wisdom is unsearchable, and his ways passinding out. His name alone is exceptent, his glory is above the earth and heaven.

II.

I am admitted into thy presence to speak unto thee; the blessed and only i Tim. 6.15. Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lord, who only hast immortality! O how happy ought I to think my self, that I may draw thus nigh to thee, who dwellest in light unapproachables who

art so happy in thy own most blessed Nature; and who if thou dost but open thy self to any soul, and fillest it with a great sense of thee, and affection to thee, thou lettest heavenly joys into it, and makest it happy beyond expression! For heaven cannot be separated from thee; but where soever thou art, there is peace and satisfaction, joy and gladness, and unspeakable bliss.

Adored be thy divine goodne's, which hath made me so happy this day, as to feel some sense of thee begin to shine in my soul. Adored be thy goodness, which encourages me still to look up unto thee, that I may feel more of thee; yea, hath engaged me by innumerable Mercies, to continue these addresses to thy divine Majesty; O how excellent is thy loving kindness, O Pal. 26, 7.

Majesty; O how excellent is thy loving kindness, O Pal. 36, 7.

God! How precious are 139, 17.

thy thoughts unto me! how 46. 5.

great is the sum of them!

Many, O Lord my God, are 1 22, 9, 10,

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thy wonderful works which thou has done, and thy thoughts which are used me-ward: they cannot be reckoned used or order unto thee: if I would declar and speak of them; they are more that can be numbred. By thee I was fearfully and wonderfully made in secret. Thou art be that took me out of my mothers womb; and didst make me hop upon her breasts. I have been call upon thee ever since, and thou has been my gracious God unto this moment.

My infancy and childhood was attended with a very careful providence. And thou haft bleffed my riper years with a continued health and strength of body and mind, and abundance of good things to support and refresh me in my pilgrimage through this world to a better life, I never have wanted my daily bread even when I was not able to ask it of thee. And thou hast bestowed on me many friends and kind benefactors. And prevented me likewish

by a timely grace, and fent me many Instructors; that I might remember thee my Creator, and Jesus Christ my Saviour. Into whose Family, bleffed be thy Name, I was early adopted, and affured of thy fatherly love and tender mercy towards me. O how deeply do I stand indebted to thee for all those, by whose Counfels, or Sermons, or Writings, or religious Society, or godly Examples, or charitable Prayers, I have been helped forward in my way to heaven! Bleffed be thy Name for all the means whereby I have been led to the knowledge of thy great love in the Lord Jesus, which passeth knows

For ever bleffed be thy Name, for fending him into the world, born of a Woman, to be a teacher of righter oufnels; to go before us, and leave us a pattern of a most holy life; to dye for our fins; and to rise again for our justification; and then to asked into the heavens to prepare a place

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for us; where thou hast advance him above all principal Phil. 3. 10,11. ties and powers, and gi ven him a name above every name, the at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, and every tongue confess him h be the Lord, to the glory of thee, O God the Father Almighty. I glorifie the O heavenly Father, with all my hear and foul for inspiring thy holy Apo files and Prophers; and Shining into their hearts to give the 2 Cor. 4, 6. light of the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of Jesus Christ. Athank thee for calling me to faith in thee; for making fuch great and precious promifes to encourage our hope; and for disposing me, in any measure, to be an inheritor of them. I thank thee for granting such power to our bleffed Lord; to fulfil his word; for making him a royal High-Prieft, and appointing him to bless us, here and eternally.

Glory be to thee, O Lord most high, who hast so often savoured me with

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the gracious visitations of thy holy Spirit; enlightning my mind, drawing my will towards thee, exciting in me holy defires, working many pious purpoles and resolutions in my heart, giving me a taste how gracious thou art, fetting before me the hope of eternal life, and perswading me by innumerable arguments to entertain those bleffings which I should have been forward of my felf to have defi red: Who can inter the Pfal. 106. 24= mighty acts of the Lord! who can shew forth all his praise! How often hast thou spared me when I deferved to be punished! How many dangers have lescaped! From how may ny affaults of the enemy Mention all have I been guarded! And how many of his defigns have been defeated by an invisible and unobserved goodness, which ought

for ever to be acknowledgedrin Eurais pur Bi

particular mercies you ca remembers and proceed Still to admir bis loving kind ness in all those you took no notice of have forgottes

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light all my mind, draw

m - willcowards the O my God, with what awe and reverence ought I to make mention of thy name, who dwellest in eternity, 2 Erd. 8. 20, whose throne is inestima-ble, whose glory cannot be comprehended, before whom the Hosts of Angels stand with trembling! With what humility of foul ought I to acknowledge thy Divine Grace, that thou who art fo great and highly exalted, wilt humble thy felf to take notice of fuch poor things as we are! Thou art to be admired with our highest thoughts: thou art to be loved with all our heart, and foul, and strength. We ought to render thee most chearful service; and confess that we never serve our felves more, than when we even lofe all thought of our felves, and forget all things here, in admiring, loving, praising, and giving thanks to

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thee.

All that is within me ought to bless thy holy Name. O how great ought my joy to be in thy love, and in thy Salvation: who art worthy to be praised with all pure and holy praise. Therefore let Tob. 8, 16.

thy Saints praise thee, with all thy creatures. And let

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all thine Angels, and thine Elect praise thee for ever. It is good to praife God and exalt his Name, and with honour to shew forth all his works; therefore be not flack to praise him. Yea, to thee, O Lord, Lought to refign my felf with the greatest willingness of heart; to trust and hope in thee at all times; to excite all others to shew forth thy praise; and to study to glorifie thee more and more, nor only by my words, but with my body and foul, in all the actions of a fober, righteous and godly life. I can-defire no greater honour in this world, than that I may live to the praise of the glory of thy grace in Christ Jesus; walking worthy of

thee, who hast called me to thy King dom and Glory; and behaving m self in all things, as becomes one the hath received such pledges of thy low already, and looks for thy mercy us to eternal life.

All thy Laws, I know, are just an

Prov. 3. 17. good. Thy ways are way
of pleasantness, and a
thy paths are peace. Mon
to be desired are thy com

mandments than Gold.

Ecclusi 4. 12. freeter also than hone,

and the honey-comb. By
them doth thy servant shine gloriously,
and in keeping of them there is great re
ward. He that loveth them, loveth life,
he that holdeth them fast shall inhere
glory; and where soever they enter, the
Lord will bless. Great peace have they
that love thy Law, and nothing shall offend them. The Lord God is a sun and
shield: the Lord will give grate and
glory: no good thing will he with-hold
from them that walk uprightly. O Lord

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of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth

IV:

But the more, O Lord, I speak in thy praise, the more I am sensible, I'. reproach my felf; who have not given thee that honour and glory, that fear and love, that hearty ferviceand chearful obedience, which is dueunto thee, fo many ways. I stand condemned out of my own mouth, of most fearful ingratitude to thee, from whom I have received fo many, and fuch inestimable benefits. How feldom have I thought of them? Or how little have they affected my heart? How loth have I often been, to dispose my self to commemorate the greatest love of my dearest Saviour? And how foon am I weary, even of the most delightful employment, of praising and bleffing thee; With whom I profess that I desire and hope to live for ever, and praise

thy Name? O the vanity of m mind! the looleness of my thoughts the inordinateness of my desires, and unruliness of my passions! the discontent of my spirit! the unstedsastness of my resolutions! the breach of my promises! the coldness of my prayers and the dulness of my meditations the loss of my precious time, and neglect of good opportunities! my eagerness after these worldly enjoyments, and feeble endeavours after heaven!

I am aftonished to think, that ever I should distrust thy providence, who hast been so tenderly careful of me; or be unthankful for thy benefits which are every moment poured forth so plentifully upon me; or be uncharitable to my Neighbours, when I stand in so great need of mercy my self, and live continually upon thy bounty; or abuse any of those blessings, which thou canst so easily deprive me of, or wholly spoil the comfort of them. And yet alas!

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alas! how prone have I been to deceive my felf with shadows of Religion and Devotion towards thee? and to content my felf with the praises of those divine perfections, which I have not fo zealously studied to imitate? O how unlike am I to the humble; the meek, the pitiful, and the parient Jesus? Yea, how insensible am I of his incomparable love, which made him to lay down his life for me? How many ways have I injured my Neigh bours, or neglected to do them good? I am conscious to my felf of fundry offences, not only against the rules of righteousness and mercy, but of fobriety and godliness.

And thou to whom all things past are present, who searchest the hearts and triest the reins, knowest a great deal more. My secret sins are no more hid from

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* Here mention the particular alls of intemperance, uncharitableness, or any else you have been guilty of.

are no more hid from thee, than those which are most open and manifest

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And they are all the more grievous because a petty temptation hath to oft prevailed to make me neglect my duty towards thee. O how shameful is it, that a finall gain, or a momentamy pleasure, or the good word of men whose breath is in their nostrils, should be preferred before that ho nour which I owe to thee, and those infinite creasures of thygrace in Christ Jefus, and that immortal life and glory, which he harh promifed to the faithful! And all this against the clear understanding which thou hall given me of thy will; against many holy purposes, resolutions and vows of absolute obedience to it in all things; and against the tastes I have had how gracious thou art, and how good it is to keep thy commandments.

V

I blush, O Lord, to lift up mine eves towards Heaven. To me belongs ils,

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longs nothing but shame and confusion of face; in which I ought to lie down before thee, if I reflected only upon the baseness and vileness of my descent; being the off-spring of difloyal Parents, who were rebels and traytors against thy divine Maje fly. This is a just reproach and difgrace to the best of us. We were tainted in our first Father, who hath left a foul blot and frain upon our Na ture: and we feel that weakness in our reason, that strength and violence in our paffions, and that forwardness in our wills to follow them, and to be led by them, which is fufficient to humble and lay us low in our own eyes. With what dejection of fpirit then ought I to mention all those offences, whereby I or others have justified that first rebellion and still taken part with the Dev and his Angels, against thee and the motions of thy holy Spirit in our hearts.

Thy mercy indeed is fo much the

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more miraculous, which hath be flowed fuch great benefits, as I have acknowledged, upon fuch vile, fuch finful, fuch unthankful wretches, and at the best such unprofitable crea tures; whose understandings are so hallow to comprehend and admire thy love; whose affections are fo heavy, lo liftless, and so unapt to lay it to heart; and who, when they have done all that they can, have done no more than was their duty to do. But the greater reason there is that I should be confounded at the remembrance of my disobedience to thee, notwithstanding such unex pected, as well as undeferved de monstrations of thy love and grace towards mankind. It becomes me to bow my felf lower than my knees before thee; and to debase my self is much as I am able in thy prefence; fince I am but finful duft and afhes, that deserves to be cast down, even into the pit of destruction. The vey multitude of my offences is enough to

to amaze and perplex my thoughts; the weight of them, did I always feel it, may well depress and sink my spirit into the greatest horror and affrightment; but the baseness and ingratitude of them to so gracious a Father, O how----

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VI.

I am not able to express, O Lor the shame, the consternation and the trouble of my spirit, at the thought of that ingratitude. I loath and abhor my felf, as unworthy to live and breath upon the face of the earth. I am aftonished at thy wonderful patience, and long-fuffering, which not only endures fuch a wretch as I am; but permits me to speak unto thee, and to cry for mercy to that love which I have fo much abused. O that I were fenfibly affected with something of thee! That at least thy sparing and forbearing mercy did migh tily move, and everlastingly posses

possess my heart with admiration of it! That fo I may with the more in genuous forrow & grief bewail mine offences, against such tender bowels of compassion towards me. O that my head were waters, and Jer. 9. 1. mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep bitterly for my unkind requitals of the infinite bounty of thee my Creator, and of the inconceiveable love of my bleffed Saviour, and of the unwearied grace of thy holy Spirit, which I hope I still feel working in my heart!

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Fill me, O God, with the saddest remembrance of all my follies; and possess my reason so much against them, that I may have an utter hatred and detestation of them, as the greatest offences to me, as well as to thy divine Majesty. It is easier, I know, to make large confessions, than to be truly contrite and broken in heart: and we are more inclined to sigh and groan under the sense of thy

displeasure, than to abhor that which is evil, and to cleave to

that which is good. Be thou therefore pleased,

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OLord the Father of our spirits, to wound my Rom. 12.9.

Pfal. 42. 8.

Dan. 1. 23.

foul with a lively sense of the vileness of my behaviour towards thee, the God of my life, in whose hand my breath is, and whose are all my ways. Estrange me from every thing, that will not let me love thee with all my heart, and foul, and firength; by whom it is that I have power to love any thing at all. Set my heart in fuch a perfect enmity to all things contrary to thy bleffed will, that I may never be reconciled to them any more. And dispose me to such an entire affection to all thy commands, that none of them may be grievous to me, but I may account thy yoke to be easie, and thy burden to be light.

And then be merciful unto me, good Lord, according to thy loving-

kind

kindneß: according un Tfal. 51. 1. the multitude of thy ten 25.7. der mercies blot out m transgressions. Be merc 38. 18. ful unto me for Jesus his 32. 5. fake, who came into the world, and dyed to fave 143. 2. finners. O remember no 130. 3. 4 the fins of my youth, no 86. 5, 6. the transgressions of my riper years: according to thy mercy remember than

me, for thy goodness sake, O Lord. For I confess mine iniquity, and am sorn for my sin. I acknowledge my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not bit. Enter not therefore into judgment with thy servant: for if thou, Lord, shoulds mark iniquities; O Lord, who shall stand? but there is forgiveness with thee: that thou mayest be feared. Thou art good and ready to forgive: and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee. Give ear therefore unto my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplications. And for thy names

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Sake pardon mine iniquity, for it is great.

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Great are thy tender mercies, O Lord; who hast not yet cast me away from thy presence, nor dealt with me after my fins, nor rewarded me according to mine iniquities. Adored be thine infinite goodness, that I am fo far from being cast into the place of weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth, that I do not yet suffer here the pains, and the anguish and mifery, which mine offences have deserved. I might have been lamenting them in those doleful complaints of thy ancient fervant; faying, thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand preseth me sore. Pfal. 38, 2, 3, There is no foundness in my flesh, because of thine anger: neither is there a-88. 16, 18. ny rest in my bones, because of my fin. I am troubled, I am bowed

down greatly; I go mourning all is day long. For my loyns are filled win a loathsome disease: and there is Soundness in my flest. I am feeble and fore broken: I have roared by reason of the disquietness of my heart. But thanks be to thy most long suffering goodness, thy fierce anger youth not ver me; thy terror hath not cut me of Lovers and friends hast thou not pu far from me; nor mine acquaintana into darkness.

Yea, thou declareft thy felf willing to accept me again into friend ship with thy self. And hast in the most loving manner invited me to come unto thee, and bid me hope for a pardon through thy mercy in Chris Jefus. O how sweet are those graci-

ous words; Come unto

Matth. 11, 26. me all ye that labour, and are heavy laden, and Heb 8, 10,12. will give you rest! How

Act. 26. 28. precious are thy promi

fes, that thou wilt put thy laws into on mind, and write them in our hearts

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And be merciful to our unrighteoufness, and remember our sins and iniquities no more! Marvellous was thy mercy, O Lord Jesus, who sent thine Apossles to open mens eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they might receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them, who are santified by faith that is in thee.

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VIII.

I receive with all thankfulness this thy exceeding great grace, which hath declared, that if we walk in the light as thou art in the light, we shall have fet— I Joh. 1.7. lowship one with another, Ecclus. 17.29. It the blood of fesus Christ thy Son shall cleanse us from all sin. I admire thy incomprehensible love. O how great is the loving kindness of the Lord our God, and his compassion unto such, as turn unto him in holiness. It constrains me to offer up my

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felf with the heartiest affection to the fervice: resolving hereafter to more watchful, more diligent, more zealous in the performance of mydity; and to walk more circumspections as a child of the light, and to make my delight to do thy will, O God Behold, O Lord, my heart is bent in resign it self perfectly into thy hands and to make a new dedication of a the powers of my soul and body to be employed continually in well do

ing. I have sworn and stedsfastly purposed to keep thy righteous precept.

I have chosen the way of truth; thy judgments have 16. 115.

I laid before me. I will stick unto thy testimonies.

and run the way of the commandments. Thy word have I had in my heart; that I may not fin against thee. I will rejoyce in the way of the testimonies, as much as in all ruches. I will meditate in thy precepts: and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight

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light my self also in thy statutes: I will never forget thy word. Depart from me, ye evil doers: for I will keep the commandments of my God. Thy testimonies have I taken as my heritage for ever: for they are the rejoycing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform thy statutes alway; even unto the end.

IX.

Accept, I befeech thee, the free-willofferings of my mouth, O
Lord, and teach me thy
judgments. Give me un116,117.

keep thy law: yea I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. I am sensible of the exceeding great weakness and inconstancy of our nature, and that without thy gracious aids, I

shall not be able to accomplish these Z 3 resolu-

resolutions. And therefore I look w unto thee, with the more ardent de fires, for power from above, to con firm and ffrengthen them; and to al fift me mightily to fulfil thy whole good will and pleafure. I will fted fastly depend upon the promise of my bleffed Saviour, who hath told the that thou wilt give thy holy spirit them that ask it of thee. My hope O God, is in this thy true and faith ful word. Uphold me according unto thy Word, that I may live; and let not be asbamed of my bope. Hold the me up, and I shall be fafe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continued h. Preserve in me fuch a lively sense of thy good will and readiness to help me, that I may be so frong in our Lord and in the power of his might, as to be able to do all things through Christ strengthening of me.

O thou Father of mercies, who half bestowed so many and so great blefsings on us without asking; who hast visited us so lovingly, when we could no

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not defire any grace from thee; and when we could, but did not defire it; and when we did, but very coldly; and with little devotion of spirit: deny not the humble and importunate requests of thypoor supplicant, who most earnestly befeeches thee, that thou wilt grant me, Ephel. 3. 16. according to the riches of thy glory, to be strengthened with might, by thy Spirit, in the inner man. Arm me therewith against the assaults of all temptations, either from the good, or the evil things of this life; that they may never feduce, or deter. me from my duty : but I may do vircuously in all points, according to my Christian profession, and those vows and promifes, wherein I stand engaged to thee. .

X.VE

Fill me, O God, with the whole knowledge of thy Will, in all wif-dom and spiritual understanding, that

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I may walk worthy of the Lord, unto a pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of thee, my God. Increase that faith, likewise more and more, which worketh by love, and purifieth the heart, and overcometh the world. Stir up in me that lively hope, which may make me purifie my self, even as thou an pure: and that ardent love to thee which will make me chearfully do thy will, and love my Brethren, with a pure heart fervently.

thirst after righteousness; till I feel the satisfaction of perfect reconciliation with thee, and conformity to thee. Continue me in the number of those who are humble and lowly in their own eyes, and moderate in all their appetites and desires, who mourn daily that they have offended thee, and that others keep not thy Laws: who are meek and gentle towards all men, in heart and word, and all their actions: who are merciful and kind, rea-

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dy to give and to forgive: who are pure in all their thoughts, intentions, passions and conversation: and who ftudy the things that make for peace; and who are void of all pride and vain glory, of all strife and contention; endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Omy God, possels me with fuch a strong fense of the blessedness which thou hast pronounced to all these; that I may be willing also to fuffer wrong rather than to do it, and to suffer at ny thing for righteousness sake with a constant heart; giving thanks unto thee that thou wilt honour me, and count me worthy to suffer for the name of Christ.

Help me to give a good example to all my Neighbours by the sincere practice of all these virtues; shining as a light in the world, and being the salt of the earth: That others seeing my good works, may glorisie thee our heavenly Father. Dispose my heart to cast all its care on thee; to pray withous

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ceasing; to bless thy holy name at all times; to trust in thee, with a sted fast considence in thy Almighty good ness; to make thee my strength, and my fortress, and the rock of my salvetion; to have my conversation with out covetousness; and to set my affections on things above, where Christ is at thy right hand. In the multitude of my thoughts within me, let thy comforts, O Lord, delight my soul. When I am full, O that I may never wax wanton, or forget thee; but still rejoyce in our Lord alway: that so when I have nothing, I may be as possessing all things.

Let the doing of my duty ever be my pleasure: and to serve thee bear great reward. Let a contented mind, be instead of all that I want: and a thankful heart, sweeten all my enjoyments. Let patience always ease me under my burdens, and an entire submission to thy will, breed in me a settled tranquillity of spirit. Let my delight be in the excellent that are in the earth: and my thoughts

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Bevery much therewhile I live, where I desire to be when I dye. That heaven being my aim, my hope, and the longing expectation of my foul, I may conquer all difficulties in my way to it; and go through honour and dishonour, good report and bad report, prosperity and adversity, with the same chearfulness and evenness of mind; till at last I come to that places of rest and peace with the glorisied Jesus, who is able to give eternal life: to them that obey him.

XI.

Blessed be thy name, who hast imspired my heart with these holy desires; and wrought these purposes
and resolutions in me. It is an earnest, I hope, of thy never failing love
towards me; in assurance of which
I repose my self with full satisfaction;
of heart. Yea, this is my joy and
my glory, that I know thee; and that:
I live under the care of thy wise,
merciful.

merciful, and almighty providence at present, and that I have the promise of remission of sins, and of a crown of life; when the times of re-

freshment shall come from
thy presence, and thou shall
send Jesus to conduct all
the faithful to that glorious place where he lives.

Pfal. 103. 21. This is my Salvation and all my desire. Now that

I see thy abundant love, O heavenly Father, it sufficeth. Rejoyce with me likewise, all ye Angels of God, according to the word of our Lord, that there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth. Blest the Lord, ye heavenly hosts, ye ministers of his that do his pleasure. And, O that this joy may increase continually by my daily increase in all goodness, and the persecting of my repentance! till I come to be admitted into their company, and enter into the joy of my Lord.

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XII.

And I wish the same happiness to all Mankind, which I defire for my felf. It will multiply my joy to fee all the People praise thee, O God, to see all the People praise thee. O make a joyful noise unto the Lord all Pfal. 100, 1. ge lands. Serve the Lord with gladneß, and come 96. 8, 9. before his presence with thanksgiving. Give unto the Lord, O ne kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength: Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come into his courts. O worship the Lord with holy worship: fear before him all the earth.

More especially, I desire the increase of grace, mercy and peace to thy chosen people: Beseeching thee to bless thy universal Church, and to fill the hearts of all its members with thy love; that they may rest neither

neither day nor night, saying, Blefed be God: Bleffed be the glorion Majesty of heaven and earth, whose power, wisdom and goodness excell praise, and endure for ever. And arise, O God, for the say

Pfal. 10. 18. arise, O God, for the signal ing of the poor and the needy: let not the men of the earth always oppress them. Let the salvation 36. 10, 11, of thy people come out of thy holy place. Be though

7. 9. alted in thy own strength, and so will we sing and

praise thy power. Lord, continue thy loving kindness unto those that know thee, and thy righteousness to men of upright heart. Let not the foot of pride come against them: and let not the hand of the wicked remove them. O let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end: but establish thou the just.

Protect, O Lord, and defend that part of thy Church which thou hast planted in these Kingdoms. Great

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and innumerable have been thy mercies to us: but, alass! we are a stubborn and rebellious people; a people that fet not our heart aright, and whose spirit bath not been stedfast with thee. And therefore thou hast justly plagued us many ways: and we should have but our deferts, if thy hand should still be stretched out to punish us seven times. more for our fins. But what is man, that thou shouldst take dis-

pleasure at him? or what is acorruptible generation, that thou bouldest be extremely anzry with them?

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For in truth there is none among them but hath dealt wickedly: and among the

faithful there is none that

hath not done amiss. But in this, O Lord, thy righteousness and goodness: ball be declared, if thou be merciful to them which have not the confidence of good works.

O be merciful unto us, be merciful unto us; and do not utterly forfake:

Pfal. 78. 8.

2 Eldras 8.342 35, 36.

Pfal. 79.8, 9.

118. 25

us. O remember not against us form iniquities, and that we have for forgot thy works, and the wonder deliverances which thou hast give us. Helpus, O God of our falvation for the glory of thy name, and deliver us and purge away our sins for thy name fake. Fill us with thy wisdom from above, that we may be heartily in love with the Religion, which we profess: and preserve us in it for e ver. Defeat the counsels of all is enemies: and bring their wicked devices to nought. Unite us to each other in brotherly love: and make us at peace among our felves. O let peace be within this Church: La them prosper that love her, and seek her good. Save now, I befeech thee, 0 Lord: O Lord, I befeech thee, fend now prosperity.

And for that end endue our Soveraign Lord, the King, with all the gifts and graces of thy holy Spirit. Hear the daily prayers of thy Church for him; that he may always incline w

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thy will, and walk in thy way: and study to preferve thy people committed to his charge, in wealth, peace and godlinefs. Enlighten all our Bishops, Priests and Deacons with true knowledge and understanding of thy word; and enable them both by their life and doctrine to fet it forth, and shew it accordingly. Teach all our Counfellors and Senators wifdom : and give all our Magistrates courage and zeal, to execute justice, and to maintain Truth. Vouchfafe to all thy people increase of grace, to hear thy word with meekness, and to receive it with pure and fincere affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the spirit. Give them honest and good hearts, to honour and obey the King, and all that are put in authority under him; to submit themselves to all their Governours, Teachers, spiritual Pastors and Masters; to order themselves lowly and reverently to all their betters; to be careful not to hurt one another by word or deed; to be just and

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and true in all their dealing; to be no malice nor hatred in their hearts to preserve themselves in temperance soberness and chastity; not to cover one anothers goods; but to learn and labour truly to get their own living and to do their duty in that state of life, unto which it hath pleased the to call them.

And, good Lord, bless the honel labours of all men among us, and crown them with good fuccefs! E specially of those who have any work in hand, for the glory of thy hand the increase of Christian piety, and the peace of thy Church. Reward the bounty of all charitable persons, either for the honour of Religion, or the relief of them that are in poverty. And make the bones which thou half broken to rejoyce. Comfort all that are in a forrowful condition: and bring them out of all their troubles. Send thy Angel to guide and preferve those who are in journeys, upon their lawful occasions. Let them that go down

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down into the deep, and do business upon the great waters, observe thy providence; and praise thee for thy goodness, & for thy wonderful works for the children of men. Forgive all that have done me any evil: and requite the kindness of those who have done me any good. Let their fonls abide in good, and their feed Pfal. 25. 13: inherit the earth. Rejoyce the heart of all my Friends: and fulfil the petitions of all that have defired my prayers. Let none that muit on thee, O Lord, be asbarned: let all them that trust in thee, say continually, the Lord be may nified. Save and deliver every one of w, O Lord our God, from the hands of our enemies, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from everlasting to everlasting; and let all the People say, Amen. Praise the Lord.

Fter this, if the spirits be tired, will be fit to give them some n freshment. And then it will be ven profitable to read and weigh seriously on Saviour's Sermon on the Mount, con tained in the V.VI. and VII. Chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. And such meditations may be interfersed as are most suitable to the person condition and occasions: With the aldition of some of the prayers foregoing for RESOLUTION in well doing or for the DIVINE GRACE; for good SUCCESS in any busines or for Friends that are TROUBLED IN MIND, or are in a long JOUR NET, &c. And then conclude with the following Prayer and Thanksen

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I.

Most humbly adore and worship I thee, O Lord most high, the postfessor of heaven and earth: And admire thy infinite love to Mankind, whom thou hast thought worth the expence of the blood of thy dear Son, and the conduct and affiftance of the Holy Ghost, and the Ministry of Angels (by whom thou exercifest a most watchful providence over us) and fo many gracious messages from heaven, wherein thou hast plainly declared, that thou defireft to fee us eternally happy, by being made partakers of a Divine Nature. When we feriously consider thy glorious perfections and thy aftonishing kindness towards us, we may justly wonder at our selves, that we should ever refuse to be conformed to thy will; nay, that we should not be exceeding forward to joyn our felves unto thee, in most hearty love and entire friendship with thee.

thee. I am amazed at the dulness stupidity of our Nature; that the should need so many intreaties an befeechings of us, to be so happy. is impossible to think of thee, and prefer any thing in our esteem, an defire and choice, and delight and joy, before thy favour and good wil towards us: who art fo able and fo desirous to bestow the greatest bill upon us. And therefore I most earnest ly befeech thy goodness, that to all other mercies which I have begge of thee, thou wilt add this grace, to bring thy felf often to my remenbrance, and to possess my heart with a constant, serious and deep sense of thy marvellous kindness; in giving me liberty to chuse so great a good as thy felf, and in propounding to my will fuch everlasting happiness; and in drawing mefrom thoseways, which are contrary even to my peace and larisfaction here, by fuch powerful mo tives to well doing.

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Awaken, O Lord, awaken this sense continually in my mind. Fasten my thoughts upon those unseen and eternal enjoyments. Make me feel what an happiness it is to love thee with all my heart; to cleave unto thee against all temptations which would allure or affright me from my duty; to bless and praise thee with joyful lips; to be kept in perfect peace and tranquillity, while my mind is stayed on thee; to be full and fatisfied, and to desire nothing more, but to live for ever in thy love. O make me more and more to conceive and remember, what an infinite delight, thou the infinite good canst pour forth into us; how highly our Lord Jefus is dignified and exalted; and that thou hast made him most bleffed for ever, and made

him exceeding glad with thy counter nance; and that he will bring all thy

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children unto his glory: Settle my foul fuch strong apprehensions these things; that they may pure my heart more perfectly, and provoke me to an unwearied diligence well doing, and make me endure bad ship also, if need be, as a good solding of Jesus Christ, who was made perfect through sufferings.

III.

And affift me especially in these holy addresses to thee; that continuing instant in prayer, I may seel my hear lifted up more and more towards heaven, by ardent breathings after thee. And endue me likewise with such spirit of wisdom, and such sincerity of heart, that I may never be discouraged though I fall short of the height of my desires: but I may always thankfully acknowledge thy grace, in what I have attained, and labour earnestly to grow better, with a quiet, patient, even and steady mind.

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Preserve in me an humble confidence, that thou wilt never for fake the work of thine own hands: and let that confidence make me industrious, but not flothful. And let thy holy Spirit bless and further my endeavours; and a fervent defire and hearty good will press me forward; and the pleasures of Religion mightily indear it to me; and the joy that thou hast set before me, make me run the way of thy commandments with an enlarged heart. And the nearer I come to the end of my race, may it please thy goodness to present me with a clearer fight of that Crown of Life, which our Lord hath promiled! Open to me more of the treafures of thy Kingdom; and fill me with a greater joy in hope of thy glory: that so I may be willing to be difsolved, and to be with Christ, which is best of all.

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And now, O Lord, what thank shall I render unto thee for these ho ly thoughts, defires and affections which, by thy grace, I feel in my heart: together with all the other benefits, which thou hast bestowed on me, or intendest for me? Great and marvellous things, O God, half thou wrought for the Children of Men: and thou hast promised far greater, if we will but be truly grateful unto thee, for what we have already received. Thou fendest one bleffing, as the earnest of another: having given thy Son to us, that he might give us thy holy Spirit; and given him to dye for us, that he might give us life. Thou grantel to us thy grace, that we may repent: and thou givest repentance, that thou mayest give us pardon: and thou pardonest our fins, that we may be thy children; and being thy children thou nks

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thou defignest to make us thy heirs together with our bleffed Saviour. Thou givest us temporal bleffings, that we may thirst after spiritual: and thou fillest us with spiritual blessings in Christ, that we may long for the accomplishment of them in immortal life. There is none can declare the goodness of the Lord. We best declare our sense of it, when we thankfully receive it; and become as good as thou wouldst have us, and enablest us to be. And how great, how free is that goodness, which is most of all pleased when we are happy ! and esteems our doing our selves good, with thy grace and favour, the return that we should make of thy bounty! Thou dost us good before we ask; and thou givest liberally unto us, that thou mayest move us to ask more. Thou entreatest us when we are unwilling: thou befeecheft us, that we would let thee bless us, and not put impediments in the way of our own happiness: thou pitiest us, when we Aa 2

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have no compassion for our selver and art still careful of us, when we trisse away the richest mercies.

V.

O the exceeding riches of thy grace to the children of men! who can number all thy mercies? and who can understand the greatness of those, of which we make mention? It is eafier to speak of them, than to be affected with the multitude and furpalfing value of them: and we can foorer be affected with them, than doany thing worthy fuch excellent love. Our Praises and Thanksgivings confift too much in words, and transient admirations, and fudden passions. 0 that I had fuch a ferious, fuch a confiderate heart, as to return unto thee, the constant, uniform and chearful obedience of a godly life! By which I know, I shall not only most praise and glorisie thee, but do the greatest benefit to my self. And when I have done

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done all that I can, I will acknowledge my felf an unprofitable fervant, that hath done no more, than was his duty to do. I will esteem all my goodness, to be the fruit of thy great goodness to me. And I will rejoyce in this, that thou art formed in me, and that I am made like unto the Son of thy love; and that I have hopes through thy abundant and undeferved mercy to live with him in his heavenly Kingdom. Which I befeech thee hasten, to the eternal joy of all those that love his appearing. men, Amen. Let thy king dom come; that I may see the good of thy chosen, and glory with thine inheritance; and we may all with united hearts and affections render our thanks unto thee, and fing thy everlasting praises.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ; and the love of God, and the communication of the Holy Ghost, be with me, and with all thy people every A a 3 where,

where, both now and always. Ame

A Prayer in Lent, or upon any publication.

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Maker Lam madelike m to the Sot.

Most glorious God; who are from everlasting to everlasting bleffed in thy felf; and who a lone canft fatisfie the hungry foul, and fillest the humble with good things. In a serious sense of myown emptines and thy fulness; of my great needs, and thy bounty and readiness to be flow thy benefits, I cast down my elf before thee: worshipping and doring thine incomprehensible perfections, with a great fear of thy Almighty Majesty, and an humble hope in thine infinite goodness, and an hearty love to thy purity and righte outness, and entire fubmission to thy holy where

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holy Will: believing thy gracious promifes, desiring to be guided by thy wisdom, depending on thy providence, blessing and praising thee for thy unspeakable mercies to me, and earnestly beseeching the continuance of them; with a continued sense in my heart of thy abundant goodness to me, and to all thy creatures, and of those duties which I owe to thee, and to all men.

fo coldly entertae M relegiad tidings of falverion; - fo inflety, embraced

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Imost forrowfully bewail my care lesses, O Lord, that I have had so seldom, or so short, or so cold and little affecting thoughts of thee: and that I have performed these acts of worship and adoration, of sear and reverence, of faith and love, of submission and resignation, of supplication and thanksgiving, with so little intention and earnestness of mind, with so little zeal and servency of affection, and with so little hundred.

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mility and prostration of spirit. thing, O my God, is of fo bitter membrance to my thoughts, nothing is fuch a load to my heart, as that have loved the world, at any time more than thee; and purfued wit greater eagerness the possessions, an pleasures, and honours of a dying life, than the glory and treasures thy Kingdom, the joy and happines of eternal endurance. It grieves me to think that I have, at any time, fo coldly entertained the glad tidings of falvation; fo liftlefly embraced the loving invitations of my dear Saviour; fo negligently improved the helps and affiftances of the holy Spirit of Grace; and so faintly fought, I forrowfully again acknow ledge, that glory, honour and im-mortality which Christ hath brought to light by his Gospel. How little have I been wounded with the dying and bleeding of thine only begotten Son for my fake! How little concern'd fometimes in his passionate detter

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How little melted with the ardent flames of his incomparable love! How little moved or perswaded with his importunate intreaties? How incompliant with his inspirations, disobedient to his commands, and insensible of his precious promises, and fearful threatnings.

III:

Thave praised thee, alas! but feldom or flightly, for fo glorious an example, as he hath left us, of an holy life; for the effects and fruits of his passion and intercession; and for the power which he hath obtained at thy right hand. And lother have I, too often, been to imitate his life, and to employ that power which he hath fent me from heaven, to bring my heart to a conformity with his pattern. How often have I received thy good creatures without fuch ferious and hearty thankfmer. Aa 5 givings

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givings for them, as they deferre and tafted their fweetness, with link fense of thee, or delight in thee, who art the fountain of all blifs: How for licitous have I been to please men and obtain the good opinion and praise of others; rather than to please thee, and to do thy Commandments. the praise of which endureth for ever! O the little envyings that have been in my heart at my Brethrens greater prosperity! and my aptness to be angry and peevifh; to entertain fulpicions eafily; to make wrong or unkind interpretations; to aggravate offences; and to keep too long a fense of injuries! I hate my felf even for these things. O how vile then and odious are all those fins of inju-Here confes flice, or unmercifulness. sens particue of which I may have low deventibeen guilty!*

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Be merciful unto me, O Lord, be

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merciful unto me; through the blood of that spotless Lamb, which was shed for the fins of the world. Remember not against me the vanity of my thoughts, the errors and mistakes of my judgment, the pride of my spirit, the greediness of my fenfual delires, the violence and diforder of any of my passions, the unruliness of my tongue, the inconstancy of my pur-poles, or the baseness and unworthiness of any of my ends and intentions. b Holy God, and merciful Father, enter not into judgment with me for the mispense of my precious time, for letting flip any good opportunities, or for my ill husbanding the many Talents, which thou half intrufted me withal. Let not the abuse of any of thy creatures, the ill example that have given to any of my Neighbours, my unthankfulness for a world of mercies, my inobservance or forgetfulness of thy fatherly providen es, and my insensibleness of others miseries, be charged upon me at the day

of our Lord, or incense thy severed pleasure against me in this present O remember not my immode rate forrow for worldly loffes; my excessive pleasure in the abundance of any worldly enjoyments; the deadness of my grief, and the scare ty of my tears, for my own fins, and the fins of others; and the heartlefness of my joys in thee, and in thy Son Christ; and for all the good thou hast done to me and to my Brethren, or which they do for thy honour, and the comfort of thy People. Let not any discontent with my condition, provoke thee to make it worse: nor my want of love to thee, deprive me of the love of others; nor the breach of any of my resolutions, be punished with an indifferency and carelefnels, of spirit: nor the abuse of any of thy bleffings, or unthankfulness for them, move thine offended goodness to strip me naked of them and var lo abalel and my infeafibleness of others mile Ash eds at anneogu hegralo ed a Ke

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But, gracious Lord, so pardon me, as to give me the grace of thy holy Spirit to change and renew me throughout, in spirit, soul and body, and to enable me daily to amend my life according to thy holy word. That's the hearty defire and purpose of my foul: which longs for nothing more than a power from above, to possess me with more steady and affectionate thoughts of thee; and to fill me with a more inflamed love to thee, and to all my Brethren; and to dispose my will to resign it felf in all things to thee, and chearfully to comply with thy providence, and zealously to employ all holy opportunities of doing or receiving good, O God, deny me not this great grace, though unworthy of the least; but strengthen me with might by thy Spirit in the inner man. Let it teach and direct me in the right unida

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way; let it affift me to walk in it; let it constantly encourage my progress; chearing & refreshing me when I am ready to faint, upholding me when I am ready to fall, recovering me when I slip, enabling me with servent desires to implore thy mercy, and with resolved watchfulness to strengthen my self against all temptations for the time to come.

nothing more ultime power from as

Preserve in me such a serious and deep sense of the worth of my soul, of the weight of all eternity, of the certainty and greatness of the glory which shall be revealed; that they may prevail more with me than all the honours, and riches, and pleasures of this life. Preposses me with a clear understanding of the Gospel of our Saviour, with a strong faith, a servent charity, and a lively hope, against all other things that press upon me, and sollicite my affections: that so no thing

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thing may find admittance into my heart, but what shall submit to thy laws, and live under the government and discipline of our Lord Jesus. Inftruct me how to make all my pleafüres discreet, moderate and useful to me; that they may never take up the best of my time, nor devour the frength of my mind. Teach me to use the riches of this world aright, and to do good to my felf and others. with them. Dispose me to look upon greatness or honours but as greater opportunities to do thee more honour, and the world more fervice. Moderate all my passions, and subdue them perfectly to the obedience of Reason and Religion. Othat all my conversation with others may be innocent and profitable: and my private retirements more devout and heavenly : and all my employmenes without inordinate cares and fears, or any diffrust of thy good providence. Help me to look upon long life as de-firable, only that I may have more time

time to root out perfectly all evil he bits and dispositions, to implant and increase all Divine Virtues, and a do the more good; that I may be better fitted for an happy life, work without end. Amen.

Our Father,&c.

The same Prayer may be used in time of any publick calamity: and some of these following Prayers added, a there shall be occasion.

A Prayer in time of Plague.

Reat and many, O Lord, are the fins whereby we have provoked thee in these Kingdoms, to send all thy sore judgments upon us; the sword, the famine, and the pestilence; to cut off from them man and beast. It

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sonly of thine infinite mercies, that we are not utterly confumed, and because thy compassions fail not. Blesfed be thy goodness, that we are not yetdelivered into the hand of those that hate us; but only corrected by thy own hand, who art the Father of mercies. To them we flee now in our great diffress; and befeech thee, that thou wist not shut up the bowels of thy tender mercy and compassion towards us in displeasure. But punish us, that thou mayest pardon us, and amend us, and make us a more devout, fober, righteous and charitable people, zealous of good works. Say to thy destroying Angel, Hold thy hand, it is enough.

Or if thou art pleased to have it still stretched out against us, give grace to us who are yet in health to spend our time in examining our hearts and lives; in bewailing our offences; in settling our purposes of repentance and new obedience; in inuring our selves to delight in Prayer

and

and holy Meditation; in giving thank to thee for thy merciful prefervation of us; in preparing our felves for whatfoever change thou art please to make in our condition; and in doing good with compassionar hearts, to those poor people, that ly under thy heavy visitation. And graciously vouchsafe to bestow upon them entire patience and fubmifion to thy Will: and enable them will unfeigned repentance and humble hope in thy mercy, to refign them felves and theirs into thy hands; that howfoever thou shale dispose of any of us, living or dying we may be the Lord's, legn A national so will en with

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Lord have mercy upon us all, for Jesus Christ his sake. Amen.

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In time of War.

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es for O God, who hast justly punished our carnal security, and abuse of that peace and quietness which we have enjoyed, by making us bear the found of the trumpet, and the alarm of nar; be merciful unto us, I most humbly befeech thee: and awaken every one of our fouls thereby, to fearch and try our ways, and to turn unto thee by a timely repentance and amendment of our lives. Though we deserve to be cut off by the fword, which is unsheathed as a foolish people that have not known thee; fortist children, that have no understanding; who are wife to do evil, but to Joel 2. 174 do good have no knowledge: yet pare m, good Lord, spare thy people, and give not thy heritage to reproach.

O thou God of peace, who didft fend thy own Son among thine enemies, to make reconciliation between

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loft men and thy felf; inspire or hearts, and the hearts of all those with whom we are at difference, with a love of peace: and incline us to hearken and confent to reasonable terms of reconciliation. And for that end root out of every one of our minds and hearts all pride and ambition; all inordinate defire of greatness and dominion; all coverousness, and greediness of wealth; all falle opinions, prejudices, and mif-apprehensions; all anger, passion and cause less jealousies; and especially all study of revenge; all rancour and bit terness; all hatred and malice; with whatfoever elfe is contrary to the Doctrine and Spirit of our Lord Jefus Christ.

Possess us with the spirit of Truth, and love, and brotherly assection. Make us tender-hearted, and to have compassion one towards another; to study to be peace-makers; to pray for peace; to seek those things which will make for peace; and not only to

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feek after it, but to purfue it, to the umost of our power. Direct to those expedients which will happily unite, and tie us fast together. Or if these miserable differences continue, and cannot otherwise be compoled, go forth, O Lord, with our hosts: give wisdom and valour to our Leaders; resolution and undaunted courage to our Souldiers, and good fuccels to all those enterprifes which are undertaken for the common good and fafety of these Kingdoms. O God, let us fall into thy hands, for thy mercies are great: but not into the hands of men, when they are wrathfully displeased at us. And if thou art pleased to crown us with victory, give us grace to use it with moderation, justice and charity. O that we may overcome likewise all temptations to bold and presumptuous continuance in our fins against thee: and be subdued by thy favour towards us, to a ferious study and care, how to lead a peaces able

In time-of Scarcity. 550

able life in all godliness and honest for the fake of Christ Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Whose grace be with us all Amen.

In time of Scarcity.

God, who turnest a fruitful land Into barrenness, for the wicked ness of them that dwell therein; pour down upon the finful inhabitants of these Islands, a serious sense of their own undefervings, and of thy righteous judgments, which thou haft fent upon them. That they may humble themselves before thee, and repent of their wantonness and riot, of their fealting themselves without fear, and hardening their hearts against the cries of the poor, of their discontent and repining in the midst of plenty, and their loathing the divine food of their fouls; which thou haft

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Make us ashamed, O Lord, and heartily forry for these and all other our offences against thy Divine Majefty. And as an earnest of better o bedience for the time to come, difpose the hearts of those who are afflicted, to submit with meekness to thy punishment: and preserve them from all murmuring at thy wife providence. Open the hearts likewise of those who are rich, to shew mercy to them, and comfort them in their miseries. The greater stores of provision any have treasured up, against this time of want; incline them fo much the more to consider the poor and needy, and fear to oppress them. Enlarge their hearts in more abundant charity, by the advantage they make of this present Scarcity. And when thou shalt have turned it into plenty again, Lord, make us all truly thankful, and foberly to use thy bleffings, and to bring forth plentifully the the fruit of good living, to the he nour and praise of thy Name, and the eternal happiness of our souls and bodies, in that world where there is no want, but fulness of joy for evermore. Amen.

A Prayer proper for Ember-Week.

God, the Father of lights, from whom cometh down every good, and every perfect gift; I am sensible of thy great grace in ordaining a succession of men to bless in thy Name, and to instruct us in our duty. I am sensible of what moment it is, that they should be wise and good themselves, who are to teach wisdom, and recommend goodness and virtue to thy People. And therefore I most humbly beseech thee, to inspire the Bishops and Pastors of thy slock with the spirit of Wisdom and discerning,

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make choice of fuch only to be Stewards of the heavenly Mysteries, as trust they are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost, to take upon them the Office of serving in the sacred Ministry of thy Church.

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And inspire likewise all those who shall be admitted to that service, with a great zeal for thy glory, and for the honour of our Saviour, and for the Salvation of his people. Replenish them so abundantly with the knowledge of thy will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that they may be apt to teach, skilfully divide the word of truth, rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments, Catechise and instruct the Ignorant, exhort and convince gain-fayers, fatishe those that are in doubt, confirm those that are well resolved, comfort those that mourn, absolve the penitent, and convey bleffings to all those who are committed to their charge.

And hear, I befeech thee, the prayers of thy whole Church, which are

Bb

now

554 A Thankfgiving for any public

now devoutly offered to thee. An ffir up all the faithful to fend up a dent supplications; that those whom our spiritual Fathers now separate to any holy office, being the children of fastings and prayers, may be the more laborious and fuccessful in the work of our Lord, and prove eminent instruments of enlarging his Kingdon here on earth, and thereby of bringing many fouls to his Kingdom in heaven. For which I most humbly befeech thee to fit and prepare us all by the ministry of thy faithful servantse very where, for the fake of our great high Priest, Christ Jesus. To whom, erc. Amen. minimiser thy boly Saum

A Thanksgiving for any publick or pri-

falleand infirmed the Ignorance ex-

God most high, and blessed for evermore: who hast bestowed upon us the happiness to know & understand thee, that thou art the Lord of

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fall, and that thou exercifest loving hindness, judoment and hour your righteousness in the earth, Jer. 9, 347 and that thou hast said, in these things thou delightest, Thou are to be worhipped and adored with my continu-Il praises and thanksgivings, who am here proftrated before the Throne of thy Grace, oppressed with the great load of thy mercies and benefits, which call upon all that is within me to bless thy holy Name. I have often scknowledged that thou are the Auther of my being; and that it is thy favour which hath made my life not to be a burden to me, as it might have been by innumerable miferies. And now I heartily renew those ac-knowledgments; and thank thy great goodness for my long continued health, ease, peace and plenty; or that thou hast mercifully relieved and supported me in any lickness, pain, trouble or loss of worldly goods that hath befallen me. Particularly I thank thee for thy late bleffings which thou Bb 2 haft

hastconferred upon me, notwithstanding my undeservings, and high provocations, which I have any way given thy divine Majesty, to deprive me of all good things.

[Here mention the particulars in which
you are privately concerned: and if
it be the publick mercy of ceasing a
great Contagion, proceed thus.]

Blessed be thy goodness, which hath preserved so many of us alive in the midst of a great mortality; and hath restored health again into the habitations of our Neighbours. Blessed be thy sparing mercy which hath delivered us from the noisome pestipsall 91.2, 7.1 lence; and when a thoufand fell at our side, and ten thousand at our right hand, didst not suffer it to come nigh our dwelling. Thou hast been our refuge, and our fortress, our God, in whom we ought to trust for ever-

for thy late bleffings which also

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[After a War is ended, some such words as these may be added.]

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, may we all well say, if it had not been sic. the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up a- 65.7. gainst us: Then they had 29.ulf. swhen their wrath was kindled against well selected by the Lord who had against

when their wrath was kindled against us. Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. Blessed be the Lord, who hath caused Wars to cease: and made our enemies to be at peace with us. It is the Lord, that stilleth the noise of the Seas, the noise of their Waves, and the tamult of the people. The Lord giveth strength to his people: The Lord blesseth his people with peace.

Chris, whom thou has tenrations us nestwork to be the Meritaror of our peace with thee, to

incomprehensible me

[When Plenty is restored, fay] A

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Thou hast visited the earth and bleffed it; thou hast made it
Pfal. 65. 9,12. very plenteous. Thou hast
232. 15. crowned the year with thy
goodness; and thy clouds
have dropt fatness. Thou
hast blessed our provision
abundantly, and satisfied
our poor again with bread. Blessed be

our poor again with bread. Blessed he the Lord, who hath saused the former and latter rain to come down for us in their season; and filled us with the finest of the wheat. We eat in plenty and are satisfied: Praised be the name of the Lord our God, that bath dealt wondrously with us.

But above all, thy great and glorious name is to be praifed, for thine incomprehensible mercy in thy Son Christ, whom thou hast sent unto us with better blessings; to be the Mediator of our peace with thee, to heal ick

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heal all the difeases of our finful na: tures, and to deliver us from the power of Satan, and of Hell and Death, and to restore us to an immortal life. Thanks be to thine infinite goodness, which hath taught us by him the way of truth and righteoufness; and made him an offering for our fins; and raised him from the dead, to the Throne of Glory in the Heavens; and fent from thence the holy Spirit, to enlighten our minds with the whole knowledge of thy will, and to flied abroad thy great love in our hearts, and to be the earnest of an heavenly inheritance, together with our bleffed Lord; who is Heir of all things, having the Hofts of Angels subject unto him, whom he hath appointed (bleffed be thy Name) for the guard and defence, the fuccour and help of all his faithful fervants.

I thank thee, O Lord, that thou hast pardoned so many offences; and so graciously importuned me to re-

Bb 4

360 A Thankfgiving for any publick

turn to my duty; and afforded fo . long time and space of repentance; and waited so patiently for my a-mendment; and continued to me constantly, as I must again confess, so many bleffings which I have abused, or restored them to me after a short correction of my faults. I cannot wish for any other happiness, but only for an heart gratefully to refent thy love, and to delight to meditate continually on thy tender mercies; that fo I may love thee more, and thank and serve thee better the rest of my days, and live in good hope to pass from all this happiness here, to eternal blifs. And this grace thou haft likewise promised to bestow upon me; yea, I feel the motions of thy holy Spirit in my heart, exciting in me a sense of thy goodness, and provoking me to love and to good works.

O my foul, never forget the loving kindness of the Lord. Let his name be daily blessed and praised with a ck

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joyful heart; for his Pfal. 52. 1 goodness endureth contimally. To him I ought to live, and not unto my felf; for he is my Creator, and Saviour, and Comforter, who daily loadeth me with his benefits. Therefore I ought to glorifie him, both with my body, and with my spirit, which are his. Accept, good Lord, of the unfeigned defires and purpoles which thou feeft in my heart, in all things to be conformed to thy Will. And accordingly affift me always with the renewed influent ces of thy heavenly grace, that I may grow in spiritual wisdom and knowledge of my duty; and that I may heartily love it, and faithfully remember it, and give all diligence to perform it, notwithstanding any difficulties that I meet withal to oppose it.

Enable me to maintain a constant fense of thy divine presence, to revetence thy holy Name and Word, and to walk before thee in all humility,

Bb 5

thank-

562 A Thanksgiving for any,&c.

thankfulness, patience, heavenlymindedness, and contentedness of fpirit. And help me likewise to exercife all justice, charity, meekness, and forgiveness towards all Men: and to live in a fober, chafte and moderate use of all the good things of this world. Let thy fear always curb the diforders of my passions; and thy love be a spur to my endeavours; and the example of the Lord Jefus, and all the Saints provoke me to zeal and fervency of lipirit; and the hope of eternal bliss strengthen, encourage and make me constant in all the troubles and hardships of this life: that persevering in well doing, I may finish my course with joy, and win the Crown of Righteoufnels, which he hath promifed to all the faithful. Amen, Amen.

Affift me mercifully, O Lord, in these my Supplications and Prayers, and dispose the way of thy servant, towards the attainment

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D S of everlasting salvation; that among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, I may ever be defended by thy most gracious and ready help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Short Prayer for a Student.

T Look up unto thee, O Lord, from whom cometh every good and perfett gift, befeeching thee to direct, affift and bless all the labours of my mind. Illuminate my understanding, O Father of lights, and lead me unto right apprehensions in all things. Endue me with that humility and foberness of mind, which thou delightes to reward, with more of thy gifts and graces. Beltow upon me a differning spirit; a sound judgment; and an honest and good heart, fincerely difposed to employ all the Talents which thou haft, or shalt intrust me withal, to thy honour and glory, and to the good of Mankind. For

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For which end, I befeech thee to excite my thirst after useful, rather than much knowledge. And especially enrich me with the treasures of that inspired wisdom, contained in thy holy Scriptures; which are able to make me wife unto falvation. That growing in understanding and goodness, as I grow in years; my profiting may be apparent unto all Men; and I may give a comfortable account of my time to thee, my God, at the day of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

A Prayer that may be used, any time of the day, when a person hath leisure to retire.

Covernour of all things; I profirate my felf before thee, in the humblest adoration of thy incomprehensible Majesty: acknowledging that I depend entirely upon thee; praiseing and magnifying thy most glorious.

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Power, Wisdom and Goodness, which are conspicuous every where; and rendring unto thee my most hearty thanks for all the benefits which thou aft fo freely and undefervedly conferred on me. Thou art bountiful to the whole World: All thy Works praise thee; and we the children of Men ought more particularly to bless thee, and speak good of thy Name, who have received fingular marks and tokens of thy favour and grace, above all the rest of our fellow creatures. Thou hast made us after thine own Image, and endued us with reafonable and immortal spirits; and given us a capacity to reflect on thee the Author of our being, and to be like unto thee in wiscom, holiness, goodness and truth. But above all ought to remember continually that great demonstration of thy love, in lending thy dear Son to live among us, to dye for us, and to give us an affured hope of immortal life.

I love thee, O Lord. I renew the oblation,

oblation, which I have often made of my foul and body to thee. I wait up on thee still, for what thou feest good for both. I hope in thy everlatting mercies, that thou wilt pardon all my forgetfulness of thee, and ingratitude unto thee. And I most earnestly implore the grace of thy holy Spirit, to preserve in my mind a powerful sense of thee; an ardent love to thee; and an holy care to please and obey thee in all things. That the very fame mind and spirit may be in me, which was in Christ Jesus our Lord; the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, and the fear of thee; the spirit of meekness, humility, purity and charity: and that I may do thy will with fuch chearfulness, zeal, constancy, patience and perseverance, as he did.

I thank thee, O Lord, for all helps and affiftances of that good Spirit, which thou haft already favoured me withal. That thou haft so frequently made good motions to my foul; inspired deaf

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foired me with holy thoughts, and evour affections; and inclined and disposed my will many ways, to the choice of that which is good. I thank thee for the many seasonable admonitions which thou hast given me, for the happy opportunities which have been afforded me, for wisdom and virtue; for a good education, pious examples, faithful friends, and all other furtherances in the way of salvation.

I remember likewise, with my most grateful acknowledgments, what abundance of good things thou hast bestowed on me, from time to time, for my better accommodation in this present life. Blessed be thy name for my continued health, and food, and raiment. Blessed be thy name that my bones are not broken; that I am not groaning under the forest pains; that I dwell in safety night and day; and that I still see my friends and acquaintance, and many other comforts round about me.

I thank thee, O Lord, for thele and all bleffings whatfoever, the thou haft conveyed to me by the Mi niftry of thy hely Angels; unto whom thou halt given the charge of me. 0 bless the Lord, together with me, n bis Angels which excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening to the voice of his word. And enable me every day, I most humbly befeech thee, @ Father of mercies, to bless thee better; with a purer heart, and a more lively fense of all thy love, and a greater delight in thy Divine Service, and a forwardness to every good work.

And as thou hast preserved me hitherto this day: so bless me the remaining part of it. That endeavouring sincerely in all my designs, words, desires and actions to approve my self to thee, as thy good and faithful servant, I may with a good conscience present my self before thee in the conclusion of it: and with the greater considence of thy gracious acceptance

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nents, and commend my felf to thy blessing, and hope for the continued protection of thyholy Angels; through Christ Jesus. To whom be glory for ever. Amen.

A shorter to the same purpose.

Prostrate my self before thee, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, in all humility of foul and body. Iacknowledge my dependence upon thee; and thy constant care and providence of ver me ever fince I was born: particularly this day; in keeping me his thereo from many dangers, and providing for me many good things; as well for the comfort and pleafure, as for the necessary support of this prefent life. Especially I thank thee for thy exceeding great love in the Lord Jesus; through whom thou hast given me good hope of better enjoys ments in the life to come, by following

ing that bleffed example which he hath fet us, of all well doing, and

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contented fuffering.

It is all reason, O Lord, that I fhould love thee, and entirely truff in thee, and most willingly serve and obey thee. Accordingly I here again dedicate my felf both foul and body to thee. I vow my felf ever to thy fervice. I hope still in thy great mercies, which have been fo tender and so abundant towards me. I depend upon thee, for what thou feeft to be profitable for me. I refer my felf ab folutely to thy wife Will; refolving to rest contented and satisfied in that condition wherein thou placest me. I believe thou orderest all things in heaven and in earth; and takeft the greatest care of those that wait upon thee, and commit themselves unto thee, as I now do, in confidence of thy goodness, and submission to thy pleas fure. Especially I rely upon thee, for thy holy Spirit, to preferve in me thefe holy purposes, and inspire me continually h he

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mally with good thoughts, and stir up in me heavenly affections, and increase and strengthen my faith and hope in thee, and assist my endeatours to do according to my pious refolutions.

Blessed be thy great goodness for what I have felt already: I thank thee for thy many illuminations from above; for thy grace so early preventing me; for the assistance and surtherance thou hast given me; and the happy opportunities I have met withal of improving myself in true wisdom and goodness. It is the earnest desire of my soul to grow more in both, and to be made perfectly like to my blessed Lord and Saviour. By whom all honour and glory be given to thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

apulius mas be religiosed, and medicingos fit to escompany our forts in heavy end Acciours to do thee faithfut ferming through Whas Christians Land. Amens

Stirle at at he a moderate of

A Grace before Meat.

Lord, in making this [plentifu'] provision for us. Pardon our ingratitude for thy former mercies. And bless us with such a discreet and thankful use of these thy good creatures, that they may not hinder us in our duty, but better dispose us to do thee all faithful service in our several places; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Atmen:

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Or this.

givest us life and breath, and all things; beseeching thee to forgive us all our sins, and to make us such thankful partakers of these thy good creatures, that by a moderate use of them our bodies may be resreshed, and made more sit to accompany our souls in hearty endeavours to do thee faithful service, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Or this.

We receive from them in well doing, and drink, to do the will of thee our heart wenty factors from the grace of the holy Spirit, that we may return back unto thee the strength we receive from them in well doing, and drink, to do the will of thee our hear venly Father, through Jesus Christ, &c. Amen.

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After Meat.

WE return unto thee, O Lord, our hearty thanks for these and all other the like mercies bestowed upon us, ever since we had a being; especially for the

the promises thou hast given us of eternal life, by thy Son Christ. Enable us, we beseech thee, to continue so patiently in all good works, that at last we may attain it. And bless thine Universal Church, these Realms, the King, the Queen, and all the Royal Family; and grant us thy grace, mercy and peace, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

Or this.

BLessed be thy name, O Lord, for our continued health, and food, and raiment, and friends, and all other good things, whereby thou maintainest the comfort of this present life. Above all we thank thee, for thy love in Christ fesus, and the hope thou hast given us by him, of better things in another world unto which we beseech thee to bring us by hearty obedience to thee all our days. Save thine Universal Chard, and the lower and the continues the continues of t

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Or this.

E thank thee, O Lord, that we are alive, and that we live in health, and peace, and the enjoyment of all good things that are needful for the support of this present life, and for the attainment of a better. Continue them, we pray thee, unto us: and continue in us such a thankful sense of thy love, that we may live unto thee, by whom we live. Save thy Universal Church, &c.

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